



# Be a Wise Consumer

## CONTACT US




**Flathead County  
Sheriff's Office**

 Look closely at the all the offers in the mail. Scams usually use official-looking documents. If offers come in the mail that you didn't order, you are under no obligation to pay them.

 Keep an eye out for the low cost home repair work that should be more expensive. The con may only do part of the work and have the job paid for before all the work is done. Never pay with cash and never accept offers from workers who drive up and just happen to be in the neighborhood.

### If Someone Rips You Off

 Report to the police, city or county consumer protection office, district attorney's office, or consumer advocacy group of all con artist games. Never be embarrassed.

 For current fraud alerts call the National Fraud Information Center at 800-876-7060 or visit [www.fraud.org](http://www.fraud.org).

For more information on this and other department services, contact:

**Flathead County Sheriff's Office  
Community Resource Unit  
406.758.5602**

Or

Visit our website at [www.flatheadcountysheriff.com](http://www.flatheadcountysheriff.com)

- Programs and Services
- Local crime mapping
- Crime prevention tips
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## Spot-A-Scam



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## Don't let this happen to you!

## You can protect yourself

### It can be hard to Spot-a-Scam

They are smart, aggressive, and extremely persuasive. They come into your house through different ways, whether it's through the computer, front door, or the mail. They can be even more tricky by advertising in newspapers or magazines. In the beginning they are very helpful people being nice and polite. One good rule to remember is: **if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is**, and even when we know this, they get billions of dollars every year.

- ☛ You receive a phone call saying you won a huge prize. They tell you all you need to do in order to receive the prize you need to send a check to cover the taxes and delivery. The prize never arrives and a few weeks later you get a call saying that the company went out of business and all you need to do is send a another check and the prize will be delivered immediately. Still the prize never shows up.
- ☛ An ad in the newspaper, TV, or magazine catches your attention. It promises the cure for certain types of cancer or other types of medical problems. The ad says I feel thousands time better or it's a complete miracle. You end up sending in a check for this quick cure and all you get is a big can of vitamin C, placebos, or some other type of pills that could possibly make your condition worse or react negatively with your medications.

#### Some typical scams targeted at older people

Older people are the victims of many scams. Scam artists work to confuse their victims by creating complex plans that they will eventually accept.



- 💰 Remember, you have the right to say no. Don't be afraid to end the conversation if the caller makes you uneasy. Scam artists know that when you stay on the phone for a longer period of time their chances go up.
- 💰 Take your time shopping around. Don't be pressured by aggressive cons into a decision. Demand more information and ask your family, friends, and neighbors for a second opinion.
- 💰 Never give out your personal information like a credit card number, social security number, or bank account number over the phone. It is illegal for telemarketers to ask for this info in verification of gifts or prizes.
- 💰 Stay up date on the scams in your area.
- 💰 Beware of phone numbers that start with 900. If you call one of these numbers you end up paying for the call. Make sure you understand all charges before making the call.

For more information contact the Sheriff's Community Resource Unit at 406.758.5602 or [www.flatheadcountysheriff.com](http://www.flatheadcountysheriff.com)