

How to spot fake websites

Fraudsters are creating authentic looking websites that are designed to fool you into thinking you are dealing with the real company. You may end up feeling so convinced that you send money not realizing you're falling for a fraud.

Here are four ways to spot fake websites:

- 1. Simply search an address and double check** – do an easy online search of the company's name. Does the web address match the one you received in the unsolicited email? Website addresses for fake companies, and email addresses, can look authentic but if you look closely, you may see extra letters or hyphens that the real address doesn't have.
- 2. Spell check** – look to see if there are spelling errors on the website. Fake sites often have misspellings of basic information, including the name of the company they are pretending to be.
- 3. Compare graphics** – if you see poor low-resolution graphics and company logos that are askew, you may be on a duplicate site.
- 4. Unusual payment** – look for unusual payment methods. Be on the lookout for any request to send money offshore via wire transfer or for unusual payment methods such as being asked to pay using cryptocurrency.

Learn more at [GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca](https://www.getsmarteraboutmoney.ca)

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