

THE 7 RED FLAGS OF PHISHING



Phishing is one of the most common threats you can encounter online. Luckily, phishing messages can be easy to spot – if you know what you're looking for.

Here are the 7 biggest red flags you should check for when you receive an email or text.

1

URGENT OR THREATENING LANGUAGE

Real emergencies don't happen over email.

LOOK OUT FOR:

- Pressure to respond quickly
- Threats of closing your account or taking legal action



3

ANYTHING TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Winning a lottery is unlikely. Winning a lottery you didn't enter is **impossible!**

LOOK OUT FOR:

- Winnings from contests you've never entered
- Prizes you have to pay to receive
- Inheritance from long-lost relatives



2

REQUESTS FOR SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Anyone asking for personal information over email or text probably shouldn't be trusted with it, anyway.

LOOK OUT FOR:

- Links directing you to login pages
- Requests to update your account information
- Demands for your financial information, even from your bank

4

UNEXPECTED EMAILS

Expect the unexpected, and then send it right to the **trash**.

LOOK OUT FOR:

- Receipts for items you didn't purchase
- Updates on deliveries for things you didn't order



5

INFORMATION MISMATCHES

Searching for clues in a phishing email puts your love of true crime podcasts to good use.

LOOK OUT FOR:

- Incorrect (but maybe similar) sender email addresses
- Links that don't go to official websites
- Spelling or grammar errors, beyond the odd typo, that a legitimate organization wouldn't miss



6

SUSPICIOUS ATTACHMENTS

Attachments might seem like gifts for your inbox. But just like real gifts, they're not always good...

LOOK OUT FOR:

- Attachments you didn't ask for
- Weird file names
- Uncommon file types



UNPROFESSIONAL DESIGN



For some reason, hiring a graphic designer isn't on a cyber criminal's priority list. ٩(ツ)ノ



LOOK OUT FOR:

- Incorrect or blurry logos
- Image-only emails (no highlightable text)
- Company emails with little, poor or no formatting



IF YOU SPOT ANY OF THESE RED FLAGS IN A MESSAGE:

- don't click any links
- don't reply or forward
- don't open attachments



DELETE THE **EMAIL OR TEXT**, OR REACH OUT TO THE SENDER THROUGH A DIFFERENT CHANNEL IF YOU'RE NOT SURE.

Get more tips to protect yourself and your devices at:

[GETCYBERSAFE.CA](https://getcybersafe.ca)