



# Internet Shopping Tips

## Simple, Safe Ways To Save

(NAPSA)—Online shopping offers a great way to save money. There are several ways to get great deals online from shopping services that are thriving while making your wallet fatter. Checking out the following sites' offerings can help you see how to save online:

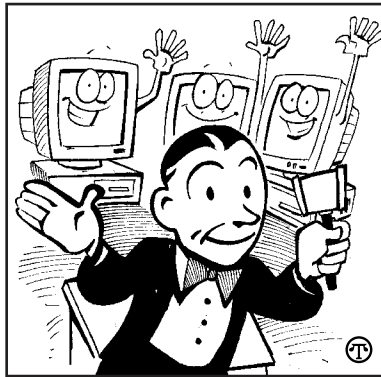
### Going Once, Going Twice

Auction sites such as ebay (www.ebay.com) have gained fame for helping people locate hard-to-find items. They're also a fantastic way to bargain hunt, especially if you don't mind purchasing consignment items. On ebay, shoppers can nab everything from electronics to cars to plane tickets for mere fractions of retail prices. For instance, one recent trip to ebay turned up a year-old, 18K gold Tiffany's bracelet that originally retailed for \$1,100. After a couple rounds of online bidding, a shopper got the bracelet for only \$500.

To take the savings one step further, check out BidXS (www.bidxs.com), a site that allows you to monitor numerous items on separate auction sites simultaneously. With a little patience and online savvy, shopping on auction sites can be a huge payoff.

### Online Rebates—Toss out the Scissors and Stamps

Just as old-fashioned coupons and rebates have brought savings to cost-conscious shoppers for years, online coupons and rebates offer a great way to save online. Ebates (www.ebates.com) is one such site that offers consumers up to 25 percent cash-back on purchases made through its 400-plus partner sites. By simply starting



**Auction and rebate web sites help consumers buy once, save twice.**

the shopping process at Ebates, shoppers receive a quarterly check reimbursing them for a percentage of what they spent at the retailers' sites, with no membership fees and no strings attached. Ebates doesn't charge higher prices for retailer's merchandise or additional shipping and handling fees. When shopping through Ebates you pay what you would normally at your favorite online retailer—sale and regular prices—but then you get cash back on every purchase. The savings are good at popular sites—big names like Nordstrom, Dell Computers, Walmart, Gap, J. Crew, Old Navy, CDNow, 800.com, Barnes & Noble and hundreds more.

Another nice thing about a site like Ebates—for those who like to bundle their bargains—is that it honors manufacturers coupons and rebates. For example, if you have a coupon good for 20 percent off at an Ebates merchant part-

ner, you can add it to the available Ebates savings (up to 25 percent) to save even more.

With more than 400 partners to choose from, it might be difficult to keep track of all the Ebates' merchants. Ebates makes it easy to remember with its downloadable "Moe Money Maker." This feature presents a pop-up window that alerts customers when they are at an Ebates merchant site but didn't go through Ebates first—or when they've reached a partner's competitor's site when they could instead be using the Ebates partner to earn rebates. It's a way to ensure you don't miss a single opportunity to save.

### Comparison Shopping in Just a Few Clicks

Price comparison sites such as MySimon (www.mysimon.com), DealTime (www.dealtime.com) and Pricegrabber.com help you compare products, prices and stores across a host of retail categories. Simply type in the product or brand you're looking for and let these sites search through thousands of online retailers to locate the least expensive options. Planning a vacation? Today's travel sites are more comprehensive than ever. The new Orbitz site (www.orbitz.com) uses advanced technology to search more than 450 airlines and over 2 billion possibilities to come up with the best fares for your travel.

### Happy Hunting!

Through these sites and many others, you too can become a virtual penny-pincher. Just sit back, put your feet up and click away to savings.