

10 Internet Safety Tips

1. Enter chat rooms that you feel apply to you.

2. Leave the chat room if there are homophobic people. Report the incident/basher to the online service provider.

3. Don't use your real name. Make one up.

4. Don't give out personal information or fill out personal profile forms that ask you for your

- Address
- Personal e-mail address. Get an alternate e-mail address specifically for people that you have met online.
- Credit Card Number
- PIN or Bank Account Number
- Health Card or SIN Number
- Telephone Number
- Date of birth
- Where you go to school and or where you work
- Where you hang out, who your friends are

5. Never give anyone else your password. No matter why they say they need it or who they say they are, they don't. If someone asks you for your password, report him or her to your online service provider. If you think someone knows your password, change it.

6. Don't be too specific when describing yourself.

7. Remember that when you meet someone that you've chatted with online, you're really meeting them for the first time. When you're online you don't have non-verbal clues such as tone of voice or body language to guide your judgement of their honesty or intentions.

8. If you decide to meet with someone, don't go to the person's house, or agree to meet at yours. Pick a place that's public and safe (like a coffee shop) where you can keep the meeting short, and leave fast, if you need to.

9. If you decide to bring someone home, introduce him or her to a friend, acquaintance or bartender so that someone knows whom you left with.

10. Report It. Contact the Bashing Reporting Line at 416-392-6878 x 337 if you're harassed online or victimized by someone you've met.



Anti-Violence Programme
416.392.6878 x 117
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