

Additional Trusted Resources

Authoritative Sources for Independent Checks

Reliable places to check information that doesn't fit neatly into another Toolkit category — fast.

Online Shopping & Account Security

Shopify Help Center — Account Security & Phishing — Official guidance for checking suspicious Shopify communications, including domains legitimate emails may use and safer ways to verify a message.

 <https://help.shopify.com/en/manual/privacy-and-security/account-security/phishing> ↗

Weather & Natural Hazards

NOAA National Weather Service — Lightning Science — Official explanations of lightning, thunderstorms, and related weather science, including how hot lightning can make the surrounding air.

 <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-science-overview> ↗

Consumer Products & Recalls

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission — Recalls & Product Safety Warnings — Search official recalls and safety warnings when a seller, post, email, or news story makes a claim about a consumer product.

 <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls> ↗

Finding Official Government Information

USA.gov — Official Guide to Government Information & Services — A starting point when the answer should come from government but you aren't sure which agency is responsible.

 <https://www.usa.gov/> ↗

Sam's Tips

Go upstream. When possible, check the organization responsible for the information—not a post telling you what it supposedly said.

Match the source to the claim. Weather claim? Check the weather authority. Product recall? Check the regulator. Company-policy claim? Check the company's official documentation.

Official doesn't automatically mean relevant. Make sure the source actually addresses the specific claim you're checking.

You don't need twenty sources. Sometimes a strong primary source and an independent check give you enough information to make a reasonable decision.