

A Kids' and Teens' Guide to Staying Safe Online

10 Tips for Safe Online Downloads

1 **Get permission from your parents before downloading anything.** Before downloading any files or apps, check with your parents first to make sure it's okay. If they say no, listen!

2 **Read the security warning window.** When downloading PC software, ensure the file name & publisher match. Ex: if you download Word, it should come from a verified Microsoft Corporation.

3 **Use an antivirus scanner.** Whenever you download any kind of file, run an antivirus program to check for any viruses or malware. This will help you to easily determine whether the file is safe or not.

4 **Never open links or files in unsolicited emails.** If you receive an email with an attachment you didn't request, beware. It might be malware, which can infect your device & cause it to act up.

5 **Don't open links from unsolicited social & chat messages.** This is for the same reason that you don't want to open any files or links you get through email. It may take you to a bad website.

6 **Only download from official sources.** Only download apps, videos, music, and other files from official stores. This list includes the Google Play Store, Apple App Store and Amazon's Appstore.

7 **Avoid Torrent and other file-sharing sites.** Even if your friends download software, music, or movies from these sites, it doesn't mean you should. It may be illegal & get you into trouble.



8 **Check ratings and read reviews.** Want to know if an app is real or safe? Read the reviews. Are bad reviews saying it malfunctions or causes issues? It may mean something's wrong with it.

9 **Keep your apps and other software up to date.** Though not technically a tip for a safe download, applying patches & updates relates to app safety. It's how manufacturers fix issues.

10 **Delete old and unused apps.** If there's an old app on your phone, uninstall it. This not only frees up your device's memory but it also gets rid of risks associated with old and outdated software.