

Life After 60 USB Safety Checklist

Print this out and keep it near your desk or computer station as a quick reminder!

1. The "Golden Rule" of Flash Drives

- ☐ **Never** plug in a USB drive you found in a public place (parking lot, park, library).
- ☐ **Never** plug in a "free gift" drive received via mail from an unknown source.
- ☐ **Never** use a drive given to you by a stranger, even if they seem helpful.

2. Before You Plug It In

- ☐ **Identify the Source:** Did I personally buy this drive from a reputable store (like Best Buy, Amazon, or Staples)?
- ☐ **Verify the Sender:** If it's a gift from a friend, did I call them to confirm they actually sent it?
- ☐ **Inspect the Packaging:** Is it in a factory-sealed, branded retail package? (Avoid loose drives or plain plastic baggies).

3. Safe Computer Habits

- ☐ **Antivirus Check:** Is my antivirus software active and updated today?
- ☐ **Auto-Run Disabled:** Is my computer set to *not* automatically open files when a drive is inserted? (You can find this in your "AutoPlay" settings).
- ☐ **Backups:** Are my important photos and documents backed up to a secure cloud or a separate, trusted hard drive?

4. If You Suspect a Drive is Malicious

- ☐ **Do Not Explore:** If you plugged it in and files look strange, **unplug it immediately.**
 - ☐ **Destroy It:** Use pliers or a hammer to physically break the internal circuit board so it can't be used again.
 - ☐ **Scan Your System:** Run a full "Deep Scan" with your antivirus software just to be sure.
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Important Numbers & Sites

- **FTC Fraud Reporting:** [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov)
- **Identity Theft Recovery:** [IdentityTheft.gov](https://identitytheft.gov)
- **My Trusted Tech Support Contact:** _____