

## PRODUCT SAFETY

### Consumer Product Safety Commission

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

This government agency helps protect consumers in the public sector by evaluating more than 15,000 types of products for safety concerns.

### Government Food Safety Information

[www.foodsafety.gov](http://www.foodsafety.gov)

Provides links to selected food safety information. Very well updated.

### Government Recalls

[www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov)

A consortium of federal agencies contribute to this website's mission to help consumers monitor government recalls on certain products and services.

## CONSUMER WATCHDOGS & FRAUD ALERTS

### Charity Watch

[www.charitywatch.org](http://www.charitywatch.org)

A nationally recognized charity watchdog service whose purpose is to help private donors make informed decisions regarding which charity to give their money to.

### Internet Fraud Complaint Center

[www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)

A government run site which helps fight fraudulent consumer products and services that crop up on the internet.

### National Consumers League

[www.nclnet.org](http://www.nclnet.org)

Helps network consumers with other consumers across the country regarding scams, frauds and suspicious advertising campaigns.

### National Consumer Organizations – Consumer Action site

[www.consumeraction.gov](http://www.consumeraction.gov)

Offers a comprehensive list of consumer advocacy, protection and education organizations both nationally and internationally.

### Ripoff Report

[www.ripoffreport.com](http://www.ripoffreport.com)

A website run by consumers for consumers with the sole purpose of advocating scams, rip-offs and consumer fraud.

### Scam Busters

[www.scambusters.org](http://www.scambusters.org)

This site helps consumers find out if an add or bargain is legitimate or if it's too good to be true.

## BOOKS & PRINT MATERIALS

### Consumer Rights Law / by Margaret C. Jasper

343.73071 JASPER

### A Consumer's Guide to Food Regulation & Safety / by

James T. O'Reilly

344.7304232 OREILLY

### Lemon Laws / by Margaret C. Jasper

346.038 JASPER

### The Art of the Steal: How to Protect Yourself and Your Business from Fraud—America's #1 Crime / by Frank W. Abagnale

362.88 ABAGNALE

### People Get Screwed All The Time: Protecting Yourself From Scams, Fraud, Identity Theft, Fine Print and More / by Robert Massi

362.88 MASSI

### How To Smell A Rat: the Five Signs of Financial Fraud / by Ken Fisher w/ Lara Hoffmans

364.163 FISHER

### Scam!: Shams, Stings and Shady Business Practices, and How You Can Avoid Them / by Peter H. Engel

364.163 ENGEL

### Gotcha Capitalism: How Hidden Fees Rip You Off Everyday and What You Can Do About It / by Bob Sullivan

381.34 SULLIVAN

*Consumer Reports* (magazine issues & buyer's guides for the past five years) R 381.33 CONSUMER

⇒ Free copies of the *Consumer Information Catalog*, a quarterly publication of the US General Services Administration, can be found on the free table across from the library restrooms.

⇒ *Consumer Confidence Reports*, an annual publication on the local drinking water quality, and *New LifeStyles: The Source for Senior Living* are also available at the free table.

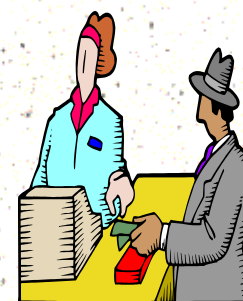
## MOORE MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

1701 9TH AVENUE N.  
TEXAS CITY, TX 77590  
409-643-5977

[www.texascity-library.org](http://www.texascity-library.org)

# CONSUMER ADVOCACY

## EDUCATION, PROTECTION & AWARENESS FOR CONSUMERS IN TODAY'S MARKETPLACE



# ONLINE RESOURCES

## CONSUMER EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT RESOURCES & BUSINESS RATINGS

### Better Business Bureau

[www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)

This site more than any other is known for providing business reports, reputations of certain businesses and valuable education for consumers. It also features assessments of certain non-profit organizations.

### Bureau of Consumer Protection

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/>

The Federal Trade Commission publishes this site in conjunction with its other resources. The site contains a wealth of consumer protection info and resources.

### Consumers Union Advocacy Site

[www.consumersunion.org](http://www.consumersunion.org)

Offers users a solid amount of information on consumer advocacy and education. This website is published by the editors of Consumer Reports.

### The Federal Consumer Information Center

[www.pueblo.gsa.gov](http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov)

Has a catalog of federal consumer publications and a wealth of information on consumer issues and concerns. (This is the agency which publishes the consumer information catalog).

### National Consumer Protection Week

<http://www.ncpw.gov/>

This is a government website on consumer advocacy and education. In addition to some good resources and links, it stresses consumer action towards fair and safe business practices.

### Texas Watch

[www.texaswatch.org](http://www.texaswatch.org)

A Texas specific website which advocates consumer protection, corporate responsibility and citizen advocacy.

### TX Attorney General's Consumer Protection

<https://www.oag.state.tx.us/consumer/index.shtml>

The Texas AG's official consumer protection website has a wealth of information for consumers. Key to this site is its comprehensive information on the Lemon Law and extensive info on consumer credit advice.

## PRODUCT RATINGS & PRICE COMPARISONS

### BizRate

[www.bizrate.com](http://www.bizrate.com)

As a shopping resource for both consumers and businesses, Bizrate links users to over a million products, brands, and retailers. It maintains a list of the top 25 retail sites and facilitates the user with an appropriate website for their needs.

### Consumer Reports

[www.consumerreports.com](http://www.consumerreports.com)

This magazine published by the Consumers Union ([www.consumersunion.org](http://www.consumersunion.org)) features ratings and recommendations for virtually all products and services including cars, appliances, electronics and computers. Full access requires a subscription but the library has available the magazines and buyer's guides located in the reference section (R 381.33 CONSUMER, *see reference desk for help*).

### Consumer World

[www.consumerworld.org](http://www.consumerworld.org)

An all-in-one site for consumer news, product ratings, price comparisons, legal info and retailer profiles. It also contains links to other resources.

### DealTime

[www.dealtime.com](http://www.dealtime.com)

A product search engine which offers detailed price comparisons, helpful consumer reviews and ratings for thousands of products.

### Epinions.com

[www.epinions.com](http://www.epinions.com)

A platform for people to share their buying experiences with consumer-generated reviews and product analysis. A subsidiary of [shopping.com](http://shopping.com), this site is very user friendly with both a search engine and directory of products and services.

### Gasbuddy.com

[www.gasbuddy.com](http://www.gasbuddy.com)

A search engine which allows the user to search for the gas prices of local merchants. Also provides a map tool to help you find directions.

## PRODUCT RATINGS & PRICE COMPARISONS (CONT.)

### NexTag

[www.nextag.com](http://www.nextag.com)

Nextag previews price comparisons for consumers who purchase their products and services online. Along with ordinary consumer products, the site also showcases recent bargains on travel packages with price comparisons by region.

### PriceGrabber

[www.pricegrabber.com](http://www.pricegrabber.com)

This site previews bargains on all types of products, especially electronics. Computer and tech accessories are thoroughly rated by experienced consumer reps.

### Shopzilla

[www.shopzilla.com](http://www.shopzilla.com)

This online shopping search engine provides users with product listings, consumer reviews, store ratings, and personal shopping lists.

### Thomas Register Online

[www.thomasnet.com](http://www.thomasnet.com)

For manufacturing and industrial professions especially, this is a free web-based directory of over 50,000 consumer products manufactured by 125,000 US companies. Vendors, their products and even diagrams are available so that consumers can search for information by brand name, company name or manufacturer.

## Auto Ratings & Buyer Guides

### Carfax

[www.carfax.com](http://www.carfax.com)

Provides history reports and driver reviews on all vehicles.

### The Kelly Blue Book

[www.kbb.com](http://www.kbb.com)

The Kelley Blue Book website displays the true market value of all automobiles foreign and domestic.

### National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA)

[www.nadaguides.com](http://www.nadaguides.com)

N.A.D.A. provides car values which are used by both individual consumers and at large organizations. (*\*The Reference Desk will have copies of the current N.A.D.A. guides.*)

### National Lemon Law Center

[www.nationallemonlawcenter.com](http://www.nationallemonlawcenter.com)

Provides both federal and state level Lemon Law information for automobile consumers.