Mystery Shopping – How Do I Get Started?

From www.earnontheside.com

Now I know what you are thinking…"All mystery shopping websites are scams that take your money for a useless list".

You are right to be skeptical; there are a lot of phony websites out there offering tips on "how to get started with mystery shopping". Almost 100% of them are scams. Ignore them, don't go to their websites, don't click on their links, and please don't give them any money! Legitimate mystery shopping companies will not ask for your money… ever.

The organization you need to be aware of is **MSPA** or The Mystery Shopping Providers Association.

http://www.mysteryshop.org

If a mystery shopping company is not part of the MSPA, **it is almost surely a scam!**

The MSPA website offers a lot of helpful information about getting started in mystery shopping, as well as links to many major mystery shopping websites. They also offer a certification process that is done in person that supposedly gives you the skills neccessary to be a myster shopper. **You do not need the certification in order to be a mystery shopper.** however, they do say that getting certified may get you priority assignments. I would definitely recommend against the certification until you get your feet wet and decide that you want to get more serious with it.

The more useful section of the MSPA website is the list member companies. This is a good place to start looking for a Mystery Shopping company in your area that is looking to hire shoppers. Spend some time and research several of the companies. Eventually you will find one that is right for you.