

# Sourcing and shopping on the...

# INTERNET

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The Internet is not just a tool for finding information for your children's school projects, checking television schedules or voting out the most boring Big Brother Africa housemate. It can be used to research and source products, find suppliers of services and even shop online. Internet shopping is for some still a relatively new concept. Share the following web sites with users by pasting them on the notice board, or compile an information leaflet.

Most large corporations have their own web sites. Even tiny businesses, run from home, can have a web site. A friend, who runs her small environmental business specialising in oil spill cleanup products, works from her home office. Her web site has attracted enquiries and orders for her products from as far afield as Tanzania, Dubai and Jordan. It seems that it pays to advertise on the net.

Internet shopping has opened a whole new window on the world. No longer the need to fight traffic or waste petrol trying to find a parking space. No slogging from shop to shop trying to find the perfect item of furniture, clothing or special gift. The world is at your fingertips. You can source absolutely anything, be it a snack to fill that hole in your tummy, or even a new house. It's all there at your fingertips.

What is available here in South Africa? I used local search engines to source products and suppliers of services and online shopping sites - [www.ananzi.co.za](http://www.ananzi.co.za), [www.aardvark.co.za](http://www.aardvark.co.za) and even used [www.iol.co.za](http://www.iol.co.za).

## What do you need to shop online?

Well in most cases, you will need a credit card, although some sites accept payment by cheque or debit card. Just read the ordering requirements for each site. But don't stress if you don't have a credit card, you can still use the net to source the items you need. Some suppliers will accept orders telephonically and will ship the items, once proof of payment (bank deposit slip) is faxed to them.

Right, everything appears to be in place, so let's start shopping.

wasted time going from one unsuitable property to another and no wasted petrol. If it is a property for rent that you are looking for, you will probably have a better response if you use the individual estate agency sites.

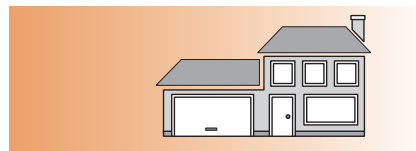


## Accessories for the home

Now that you have found your dream home, you may need to purchase some furniture, have cupboards installed or even have the garden landscaped. Keep your eye open for addresses in local magazines.

**House and Leisure** and **South African Garden and Home** are valuable sources for web addresses. The following web sites might be useful:

- ❑ Try [www.dialabed.co.za](http://www.dialabed.co.za) or [www.beds-on-line.co.za](http://www.beds-on-line.co.za) if you need to purchase a new bed or mattress
- ❑ Couches and sleeper couches can be sourced at [www.housemix.co.za](http://www.housemix.co.za) or [www.anzia.co.za](http://www.anzia.co.za)
- ❑ For dining room chairs and tables, occasional chairs, coffee tables, mirrors, et cetera, try [www.diningroom.co.za](http://www.diningroom.co.za) and [www.anatin.co.za](http://www.anatin.co.za)
- ❑ If, like me, you love beautiful wooden pieces that will grace your home for generations, you can try one of the sites in the Knysna area like [www.outeniqua-design.com](http://www.outeniqua-design.com) or [www.forestfurniture.co.za](http://www.forestfurniture.co.za)
- ❑ More contemporary-designed furniture



## Property

If it's a house or apartment you are looking for, either to buy or rent, try the following multi-listing site - [www.property24.co.za](http://www.property24.co.za). You can select the type of property - house or apartment, the location - province, town and suburb, and the price range. The properties listed provide details regarding the size of the house and grounds, number of rooms and fixtures included. Some links even provide a virtual tour of the house, so you have a good idea what is on offer. Most of the larger and some smaller estate agencies have web sites. You will find their web addresses advertised in the property section of newspapers. You can shortlist the properties that you want to look at and then contact the estate agents for an appointment to view the properties. No

can be sourced at [www.lim.co.za](http://www.lim.co.za) and [www.comfortcreations.co.za](http://www.comfortcreations.co.za)

- ❑ For a brand new kitchen or new bedroom cupboards you might give [www.sembelit.co.za](http://www.sembelit.co.za) or [www.melakit.co.za](http://www.melakit.co.za) a look. They both provide a design service.

Soft furnishings can be bought from numerous places. Just decide what your style is and pop into the many sites to see what is available.

- ❑ [www.grannygoose.co.za](http://www.grannygoose.co.za) will provide you with the most wonderful duvets and linen. There is even a pet duvet for your pampered pooch
- ❑ At [www.woolworths.co.za](http://www.woolworths.co.za) you will find all the goodies that you would usually find in store - linens, towels, cushions, et cetera
- ❑ For exclusive handmade linen, recycled paper lamps and blinds, there is [www.makalani.co.za](http://www.makalani.co.za)
- ❑ [www.biggiebest.com](http://www.biggiebest.com) supplies curtaining and upholstery fabrics, linen, and even couches and easy chairs.



## Food, wine, flowers and gifts

Well, you've more or less got the house sorted out. What about the groceries? You don't have to leave the house to order them. Just log on to [www.inthebag.co.za](http://www.inthebag.co.za) (Woolworths) or [www.pnp.co.za](http://www.pnp.co.za) (Pick 'n Pay). Place your order and wait for it to be delivered to your door at a small fee. No more crowded supermarkets with endless queues. What bliss.

Oh dear, you still need to buy that special gift for Mary Jane. Don't panic, there are lots of places that you can order from and have your gift delivered.

Perhaps a great bottle of wine?:

- ❑ [www.winemail.co.za](http://www.winemail.co.za)
- ❑ [www.nederberg.co.za](http://www.nederberg.co.za)
- ❑ [www.simonsvlei.co.za](http://www.simonsvlei.co.za).

Flowers are always acceptable:

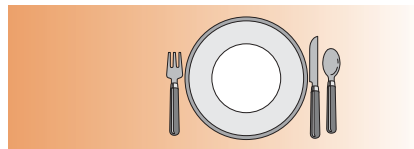
- ❑ [www.flowers.co.za](http://www.flowers.co.za) will deliver to just about anywhere in the world
- ❑ [www.justroses.co.za](http://www.justroses.co.za) will make up a presentation box ranging from one to dozens of roses, with chocolates and pot-pourri - unfortunately they only deliver in Gauteng at present
- ❑ [www.netflorist.co.za](http://www.netflorist.co.za) does beautiful baskets of flowers, gourmet hampers and fruit baskets.

What if Mary Jane is a chocoholic?

- ❑ [www.chololategallery.co.za](http://www.chololategallery.co.za) has a great range of chocolates for all occasions, including a diabetic and a sugar-free range.

Then of course there is always a good book:

- ❑ [www.kalahari.net](http://www.kalahari.net) has a wide selection of books and CDs to choose from
- ❑ [www.exclusivebooks.com](http://www.exclusivebooks.com).



## Restaurants

You have completely exhausted yourself and cooking supper is just not on the cards. So why don't you order something really delicious from one of the many restaurants in your area through [www.e-bites.co.za](http://www.e-bites.co.za). Mr Delivery will also be available shortly - they are currently constructing their web site.



## Airlines

While you wait for the food to arrive, you can spend the time planning your weekend getaway. Check out flight schedules and compare fares by logging onto the following airline sites:

- ❑ [www.saa.co.za](http://www.saa.co.za) - South African Airways

- ❑ [www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com) - British Airways
- ❑ [www.kulula.com](http://www.kulula.com) - no frills, but really good deals
- ❑ [www.flightcentre.co.za](http://www.flightcentre.co.za) - check out the specials.



## Accommodation

Find accommodation for your stay by checking out the municipal site. Not every town has their own site, but just take a flier and type in [www.<town name>.co.za](http://www.<town name>.co.za) and you might find a site. You can see what accommodation is available, but check that the rates are current when you place a booking. They usually supply information about the area and list places of interest on the web site. Some accommodation web sites, which I find particularly useful are:

- ❑ [www.aatravel.co.za](http://www.aatravel.co.za) - AA of South Africa accredited accommodation
- ❑ [www.sa-venues.com](http://www.sa-venues.com)
- ❑ [www.wheretostay.co.za](http://www.wheretostay.co.za)
- ❑ [www.gardenroute.co.za](http://www.gardenroute.co.za)
- ❑ [www.portfoliocollection.co.za](http://www.portfoliocollection.co.za) - more up-market accommodation
- ❑ [www.places.co.za](http://www.places.co.za).

I guess that if Richard III was around today, instead of standing around like a complete wally, shouting 'A horse!, a horse!, my kingdom for a horse!', he would just logon to [www.horseworld.co.za](http://www.horseworld.co.za), and order a replacement.