Avoiding Scams

Unfortunately scams can and do arise when looking to rent. Below are a few tips to help you with detecting a scam:

1. Rental amount is unusually low - for example a 2BR/2bathroom apartment for $1000 in SF is probably either in a tent or non-existent.
2. The landlord or Property Manager refuses to show you the rental.
3. The landlord or Property Manager says they are out of town, state or country and cannot show you the rental and ask for the money first and claims he/she will mail you the keys.
4. There is an unusual sense of urgency.
5. Request of advance payment through wiring money order.
6. Many misspellings in the ad.
7. Excessive use of capitalization.
8. Rushing the contract signing process.
9. All the photos are of a staged house or taken from a magazine and the neighborhood of apartment is not provided.

Note:
Be aware of providing sensitive information (bank account number, credit card information, social security number) without first verifying the legitimacy of the renter/property owner.