Know your rights if buying by mail

Continued from Page 8

Because you don't have the chance to examine the merchandise, any

product information is important.

Read the small print. "Wholesale" or "below retail" costs claims often are misleading. Look for pertinent specifications; make sure a guarantee of satisfaction (moneyback or replacement) is offered by the firm.

• If you are in doubt or need more information about the company, check its reliability by telephoning the Better Business Bureau.

 When ordering, carefully give correct sizes, colors, and other prod-uct information. And make sure that you note your name, address, and zip code on the order so it may be easily read. Also it's a smart idea to save the mail-order advertisement. You could need proof of the offer lat-er or may need the firm's address if there are problems.

Late Delivery of mail-order items any cut-off dates in the mail-order azine subscriptions, and option offer — especially around the holl- plans used by book and record day season, the BBB says.

Allow at least four weeks for delivery; six weeks is even better.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has a rule about late delivery to protect you. The rule states that a company in the mail-order business must ship merchandise within 30 days after the order received. The only exception is if a longer date is specified in the offer. If the company can't ship the goods in the 30-day time limit, it must notify the buyer to cancel the order or agree to a specified delay.

Mail-order firms, according to the TC, also must provide the buyer with a cost-free method of replying to or contacting them. If the buyer decides to cancel the order, a full refund must be sent by the firm to the buyer within seven days of reciept by company.

This rule doesn't apply to "collect-om-delivery" orders, orders that are not billed until shipment, and servicing such as photo finishing, is a big complaint. You should note seeds and growing plant offers, mag-





