

How to Prevent Identity Theft

Only carry essential documents with you.

Not carrying extra credit cards, your Social Security card, birth certificate or passport with you outside the house can help you prevent identity theft.

Keep new checks out of the mail.

When ordering new checks, you can prevent identity theft by picking them up at the bank instead of having them sent to your home. This makes it harder for your checks to be stolen, altered and cashed by identity thieves.

Be careful when giving out personal information over the phone.

Identity thieves may call, posing as banks or government agencies. To prevent identity theft, do not give out personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call.

Your trash is their treasure.

To prevent identity theft, shred your receipts, credit card offers, bank statements, returned checks and any other sensitive information before throwing it away.

Make sure others are keeping you safe.

Ensure that your employer, landlord and anyone else with access to your personal data keeps your records safe.

Protect your Social Security Number.

To prevent identity theft, make sure your bank does not print your Social Security Number on your personal checks.

Follow your credit card billing cycles closely.

Identity thieves can start by changing your billing address. Making sure you receive your credit card bill every month is an easy way to prevent identity theft.

Keep a list of account numbers, expiration dates and telephone numbers filed away.

If your wallet is stolen, being able to quickly alert your creditors is essential to prevent identity theft.

Create passwords or PIN numbers out of a random mix of letters and numbers.

Doing so makes it harder for identity thieves to discover these codes, and makes it easier for you to prevent identity theft.

If you believe you have become a victim of Identity Theft, contact your bank, credit card companies and the authorities IMMEDIATELY.

Our office can also assist you with the process of reporting and correcting identity theft.

Contact our office with any questions.

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