

15 Ways to protect yourself against Identity Theft:

- 1. **Passwords:** Don't use the same username and password for every site, especially with your bank and credit card accounts.
- 2. **Credit Cards:** Be cautious when providing credit card information. Review all statements and cut up unused or expired cards.
- 3. **Shredding:** Shred personal documents that you no longer need.
- 4. **Old phones and tablets:** Delete personal and account information, then do a factory reset, before discarding or selling a digital device.
- 5. **Secure all your devices**, including tablets and smartphones with complex passwords, pins, or unlock patterns.
- 6. **Updates:** Make sure your operating systems, software, browsers, anti-virus, anti-malware, and firewalls are updated.
- 7. **Snail Mail:** Follow up on bills or statements that don't arrive.
- 8. **Shopping:** Make sure websites are secure. Look for

- the "lock" icon or green highlighted URL.
- 9. **Social Media:** Be careful of what personal information you put out there.
- 10. **Opt out of "pre-approved credit" offers.** Identity thieves use these to easily open an account in your name. Call 1.888.567.8688
- 11. Clear out your wallet: Remove cards and documents not used often, such as a Social Security Card or birth certificate.
- 12. **Phones:** Don't give personal information to anyone who calls, unless you can confirm they are from a legitimate company.
- 13. **Credit Reports:** Request a copy of your credit report on an annual basis.
- 14. **Question everything:** If asked for your personal information, ask how it will be used, why it is needed, and how it will be protected. WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T GIVE IT OUT!
- 15. **Notify the authorities** immediately if you suspect you have been a victim of identity theft.





Social Security Card

Instead: Memorize your SSN, and don't give out unless necessary.

Password Cheat Sheet

Instead: Use a secure mobile app like LastPass.

Spare Keys

Instead: Keep your spare keys with a trusted friend.

Checks

Instead: Carry them when needed and fill them out before you put in your wallet.

Passport

Instead: Carry it only when you travel abroad.

Multiple Credit Cards

Instead: Keep only one in your wallet.

Birth Certificate

You only need it on rare occasions. Keep it in a safe place.

Receipts

Clear them out every night and shred. If you need copies, go digital.