Don’t Be a Victim of Identity Theft

Thousands of people become victims of identity theft every year. While you might think you are safe because you don’t share your password, here are additional ways to avoid thieves from getting your personal information.

Use a document safe to lock up your banking information, passport, social security card, and other papers with identifying information.

Never share your personal information on social media.

Lock your mobile device.

Always shield the ATM keyboard when punching in your PIN so people in line can’t see your number.

Only order items over the Internet using secure sites (meaning those that have an “s” or “https” in the url or a security lock icon displayed on the URL of the browser).

Shred credit card offers, pre-approved loan applications, and other papers containing your important numbers.

Don’t use public WIFI for financial transactions, and always log out of banking and all browsing sessions.

Refuse to give out your bank number or other identifying information via a phone call, email or text message that supposedly was issued from your bank or the IRS - these institutions will always send letters.

Never open a pop up message or email attachment asking for your personal information to update your bank account.

What to do if your ID is stolen?

- File a police report.
- Log on to www.identitytheft.gov to report your identity theft with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and receive an Identity Theft Affidavit needed to straighten out financial issues.
- See the FTC site to file a Fraud Alert on your credit file through one of three national reporting organizations to protect your credit.
- Notify any affected organizations like your credit card company, bank and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

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