



STOP IDENTITY THEFT

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 credit 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 you 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:** Following up on bills or statements that don't arrive.
8. **Shopping:** Make sure websites are secured. 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 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.



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