

## PREVENTING IDENTITY THEFT TIPS:

1	<p><b>Only carry essential documents with you.</b> Don't carry your social security card or Medicare card, no extra credit cards, birth certificates or passports.</p>
2	<p><b>Your trash is their treasure.</b> Shred receipts, credit card offers, sweepstakes, bank statements, magazine covers, envelopes with your name or papers with account numbers on them.</p>
3	<p><b>Secure your mail.</b> Use a locking mailbox. Put outgoing mail in postal box not your mailbox.</p>
4	<p><b>Stay on top of your credit.</b> Make sure credit reports are accurate. Use a credit monitoring service.</p>
5	<p><b>Protect your social security number.</b> Make sure it is not on documents being thrown away. Do not give it out to anyone over the phone or email.</p>
6	<p><b>Follow your credit card billing cycles.</b> Identity thieves will change your address so make sure you're receiving it on a monthly basis.</p>
7	<p><b>Secure your computer.</b> Have a login for your screen and lock it when you're not using it. Never reply to emails asking for sensitive information like account numbers/passwords. Don't save your passwords on your computer.</p>
8	<p><b>Keep a list of account numbers, expiration dates and phone numbers.</b> Make a copy of front and back of credit and debit cards so you can alert creditors quickly.</p>
9	<p><b>Create Passwords or PIN numbers out of a random mix of letters, symbols &amp; numbers.</b> Use at least 8 characters.</p>
10	<p><b>Be mysterious on social networks.</b> Don't share your home or email address, children's names and birth dates. Don't overshare private information.</p>

**Website resources:**

FTC-Identity Theft: [www.consumer.gov/section/scams-and-identity-theft](http://www.consumer.gov/section/scams-and-identity-theft)

Social Security Administration: [www.ssa.gov/pubs/10064.html](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10064.html)

US Dept. of Justice: [www.justice.gov/criminal/fraud/websites/idtheft.html](http://www.justice.gov/criminal/fraud/websites/idtheft.html)