



Identity Theft Prevention Checklist

At Home

- Keep important documents such as passports, birth certificates, checkbooks, Social Security cards, and financial information in a secure location, ideally a safe.
- If you do not want to keep these documents at home, some financial institutions have safes customers may use to store important documents and other valuables.
- Shred all unnecessary documentation that includes personal information, especially documentation with your date of birth, social security number, signature, medical information, or legal information.
- Credit offers that come through the mail should also be shredded.
- Watch for shredder truck events hosted by your bank and/or local government.

Banking and Credit Safety

- Ask your financial institution about flagging suspicious transactions
- Carefully go over your bank account and credit card statements each month to make sure you recognize all activities. If you see anything suspicious, contact your bank immediately to report it, and see if you can get the charge reversed.
- Many credit cards include fraudulent purchase protection
- Report attempted identity theft to law enforcement, even if no money was stolen

Be Mindful of Your Mail

- Some mail contains sensitive information such as government identification, bank information, tax documentation, and insurance numbers. Make sure your mailbox is secure.
- Be aware of when the mail comes each day so you can collect it promptly.
- The US Postal Service offers a free "Informed Delivery" service that sends daily emails with photographs of the mail you are to receive that day.
- Take outgoing mail to a USPS mailbox or post office, instead of putting up the flag on your mailbox

Door-To-Door Solicitations

- Never let strangers into your home.
- Do not let yourself be lured out of your home, or distracted.
- Do not give identifying information to a salesperson.
- Do your homework before buying anything. Ethical salespeople understand this.
- Your local government may require door-to-door salespeople to register.
- Voter registration does not require SSN.
- Get their business card or other credentials.
- Know your rights. Under federal law, you have the right to cancel any door-to-door transaction greater than \$25 within three days. A door-to-door solicitor MUST disclose this to you.