

IDENTITY THEFT PERSONAL PREVENTION TIPS

What should you do to avoid identity theft issues?

1. The IRS never initiates correspondence via email, text or social media. Do not click on any links or respond to any contact that claims to be from the IRS via these methods. Additionally, the IRS never calls taxpayers with threats of lawsuits or arrest. If you are contacted by the IRS, please notify your tax preparer.
2. Install and maintain powerful anti-virus and firewall software and hardware.
3. Register for or verify your “Do Not Call” status for your home and mobile phones. www.donotcall.gov
4. Unsubscribe from junk mail. www.optoutprescreen.com or www.dmachoice.org
5. Review your credit report annually. It is available annually for free at www.annualcreditreport.com or call 877-322-8228.
6. Place a credit freeze blocking all access to your report with all four credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian, TransUnion and Innovis.
7. Buy and use a cross-cut shredder to shred all documents containing personally identifiable information.
8. Do not give anyone your social security number under almost any circumstances and shred any old checks or other documents that are outside of the applicable retention period reflecting your social security number.
9. Never, ever give personally identifiable information over the phone unless you are absolutely, 100% certain of the individual’s identity and why they need the information.
10. Secure all electronic files and paper files from intruders and outsiders.
11. Carefully guard against filling out any online forms and do not open any online accounts with anyone requiring social security numbers.
12. Create new passwords for online banking, brokerage and financial accounts every 90 days. Each account should have a unique password.
13. Activate Multi-Factor Authentication wherever possible.
14. Enable text or mobile notifications on all credit cards and bank accounts.
15. Log out from apps and websites when not using them.
16. Lock your devices when unattended.
17. Avoid free / unsecured Wi-Fi or hotspots.

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