

# Identity Theft Prevention

## Our Top Tips for Identity Theft Prevention

**1** Always shred your important and confidential documents. If you're someone who still gets bank and credit card statements in the mail, it's a good idea to shred them instead of just tossing them in the trash. You never know who might stumble upon (or go looking for) your information.

Change up your passwords. As tempting as it is to make your email password the same as your social media password the same as your banking password, it's more secure to use a different one for each. Also try to avoid using obvious passwords such as your birthday.

**2**

**3** Check your credit reports. Legally, the three major credit reporting bureaus are obligated to provide you one free credit report per year. If you space these out, this means you'll have one report every four months. Use them to check for fraudulent activity or incorrect information.

Know what phishing typically looks like. Scammers are always coming out with new tricks, but some signs of phishing can usually be seen across the board. Beware of emails and calls that ask for personal information and don't open links from senders you don't know.

**4**

**5** Be careful with social media. Even if your profiles are set to private, it's never a good idea to put out information such as your social security number or banking details. Consider keeping information like your birthday or address private to just you as well.

## Further Reading

### Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft

<http://blog.centralnational.com/2017/09/identity-theft-protection/>

### What Can I Do to Secure My Mobile Device?

<http://blog.centralnational.com/2014/06/mobile-security/>

