

# How to Prevent Identity Theft

## TOP THREE CATEGORIES

- Identity Theft
- Imposter Scams
- Telephone & Mobile Services



**Secure your Social Security Number (SSN).** Don't carry your Social Security card with you. Only give your SSN out when necessary.

**Don't share personal information.** Don't share personal information, like your birthdate, SSN or bank account, just because someone asks for it.

**Pay attention to your billing cycles.** If bills or financial statements are late, contact the sender.

**Shred receipts, credit offers, account statements and expired credit cards.** This prevents "dumpster divers" from accessing your personal information.

**Create complex passwords that are difficult to guess.** If a company you do business with experiences a security breach, change your passwords immediately!

**Freeze your credit files for free.** Credit freezes prevent someone from applying for and getting approval for a credit account or utility service in your name.

## How Secure Is My Password?

Choose a password of at least 12 characters containing a mix of numbers, letters and special characters. Strong passwords are easy to remember but hard to guess. lam:;)2b29! — This has 10 characters and says "I am happy to be 29!" \*

## Victim of Identify Theft? What to Do Next

- Report Identity Theft to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) online at [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identitytheft) or by phone at 877.438.4338
- Contact your local police to report identity theft. Having this on file could save you money down the road!
- Call your banks to report any fraudulent activity on your accounts
- Freeze your credit files for free with the major credit reporting agencies
- Update your passwords and make sure they are difficult to guess. Use a combination of letters, numbers and special characters!

\* [www.mcafee.com/blogs/consumer/family-safety/](https://www.mcafee.com/blogs/consumer/family-safety/)

