

# Identity Theft

## TRADITIONAL TACTICS

Identity thieves continue to use simple, time-tested methods to steal your identity.

### Mail Theft

- Use a locking, security mailbox if possible, or consider renting a PO Box at your local post office.
- Put outgoing mail into a postal mailbox.
- Sign up for the free Informed Delivery service offered by the US Postal Service. It provides digital previews of mail scheduled to arrive soon.

### Dumpster Diving or Trash Theft

- Shred unwanted documents containing personal information and all unsolicited credit card or loan offers.
- Invest in a high-quality cross-cut shredder. Thieves can piece together papers shredded into horizontal strips.

### Shoulder Surfing

- “Shoulder surfers” observe your actions or eavesdrop on stealing personal information and may use a phone to record you.
- Shield keypads with your hand or body before entering PINs, passwords or card numbers.
- Avoid sharing personal information over the phone in public. If you must, use a low voice and shield your mouth.

### Purse or Wallet Snatching

- Carry minimal payment cards.
- Don't carry your social security card, PINs or account passwords and memorize passwords to keep them safely secured at home.

### Information Use to Steal Your Identity

- Full name
- Address (home or other)
- Phone number
- Date and place of birth
- Historical information (mother's maiden name, school names, etc.)
- Social security number
- Driver's license number
- Passport number
- Email address
- Screen or usernames
- Passwords and PINs
- Health plan information
- Geolocation information
- Credit and debit card numbers
- Financial account numbers or information
- Photos, videos or audio files