

Preventing Identity Theft



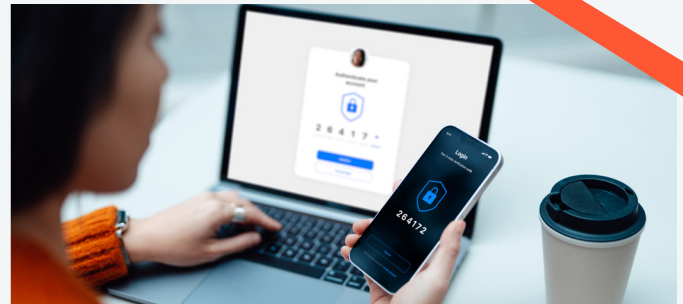
DID YOU KNOW?

In 2024, there were more than 1.1 million reports of identity theft received through the Federal Trade Commission's IdentityTheft.gov website.¹

Consumers should be proactive in protecting their personal identifiable information.

Identity Theft Prevention Tips:

- ▶ Do not throw junk mail into the trash or recycling bins. "Pre-approved" credit card offers, insurance mail, and other offers found in the mail contain valuable Personal Identifiable Information (PII), such as names and addresses.
- ▶ Store personal information (including social security card, birth certificate, and passport) in a safe or other locked, secure location of your choosing.
- ▶ Keep track of credit reports, and report any problems right away.
- ▶ When providing PII to an organization, ask how sensitive documents are stored and discarded. Ask whether they use a secure document destruction service like Shred-it®.
- ▶ When in public, make sure smartphones, laptops, and tablets are locked and protected when not in use.
- ▶ Create strong passwords using a combination of upper-and lower-case letters, special characters, and numbers.
- ▶ Shred confidential documents that are no longer needed using a professional document destruction service.
- ▶ Be careful on social media. Do not post full names, addresses, dates of birth, and other personal details.
- ▶ Always shred before recycling, and never put intact confidential documents into open recycling bins or garbage cans. Sometimes confidential information is overlooked and not destroyed including mailing labels, junk mail, old tax documents, etc.
- ▶ Protect hard drives with up-to-date safeguards including firewalls, anti-virus and anti-malware protection software, complex passwords, and encryption.
- ▶ Physically destroying hard drives and other electronic media is the recommended way to make data inaccessible. Throwing away old electronics or wiping data does not always remove its contents, potentially leaving it available for unauthorized parties to access.



For more information, contact us at 800-697-4733 or visit us at shredit.com

¹Federal Trade Commission, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2025/03/new-ftc-data-show-big-jump-reported-losses-fraud-125-billion-2024>

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