

Activity 14: Protecting Myself from Identity Theft

How Can You Protect Your Identity?

- Never throw personal information in the trash, especially a public trash can. Always shred personal documents like credit card bills, ATM receipts, and bank statements. Be sure you shred items small enough that they cannot be put back together.
- Use only secure websites (look for https in the address) when you make online purchases. PayPal is a safe way to make online purchases and payments. Also, do not to conduct sensitive transactions (such as online banking, making purchases with a credit card, or filing taxes) over a public Wi-Fi network.
- Be aware of who is around and may be watching when you use an ATM.
- Be very cautious when giving out your Social Security number or financial information online or to someone over the phone.
- When you create a User Identification (ID) and Personal Identification Number (PIN) code for an account, make it something that will be difficult to guess (don't use your birthday).
- Make sure that you keep a copy of all of your account numbers in a safe place.
- If you ask someone to get cash for you with your debit or credit card, always ask for a receipt to be sure that the amount you received is exactly the amount that was withdrawn. Make sure to monitor your account by reviewing your bank statements online or when they come in the mail.

Make a list of things you can do right now to protect yourself from identity theft:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____