

# 10 tips to fight identity theft

If your information falls into the wrong hands, it could cost you time and money to restore your good name and credit status. To help keep your financial reputation intact, follow these helpful tips.



**Secure your Social Security number** and don't share it with anyone.



**Filter your email** and don't respond to unsolicited requests for information.



**Beware** of those around you when you're using an ATM or typing passwords.



**Collect your mail promptly** and remember to put it on hold while you're traveling.



**Track billing cycles** to make sure you receive your bills and statements; contact senders if they're late.



**Review your receipts** and compare them with your account statements.



**Shred items containing personal information**, like credit offers, statements, and expired cards.



**Check your credit report** once a year for accuracy.



**Install firewalls and virus-detection software** on your home computer.



**Create hard-to-guess passwords** and change them frequently.

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If you think you've been the victim of identity theft, contact your consumer financial institutions (like banks and credit unions) and the consumer reporting agencies, file a report with the Federal Trade Commission, and get in touch with your local law enforcement.

For more financial literacy tools and resources, visit [salliemae.com/credithealth](https://salliemae.com/credithealth).

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