

# Top 10 Ways To Protect Your Identity

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Here are the best ways I believe you can protect your identity from the dreaded thieves:

1. Where do you put your PIN numbers and Usernames and passwords? Don't keep them in your wallet. Don't keep them in very obvious places like your car dashboard or kitchen cabinets.

2. If you are using your Credit Card online, check whether they have the safe 128 bit encryption technologies on the bottom of your browser. In some browsers, an image of a lock will be displayed there. Usually it's safe to deal with website addresses starting like this:

<https://www>.

3. Do you have good anti virus and firewall software installed in your PC to prevent adware and spyware entering into your PC?

4. Do you get emails asking you to verify your information? Beware.

5. Do you use a good shredder or at least do you make sure that when you throw the papers, you don't throw away vital information too.

6. Check your credit card statements carefully. There may be small charges, which you may ignore first only to your peril. If left unattended, it may wreck your credit and your identity stolen.

7. Do business only with companies and websites you know you can trust.

8. Planning a vacation. Or you are not going to be in your home for a long time? Ask the post office to stop delivering mails to your mailbox. Why tempt the thieves?

9. Can you recite your Social Security Number by heart? If not, try to memorize, sooner rather than later.

10. Don't go around with more than a couple of credit cards at a time. If you have more cards, maybe you should rotate them. That way, you have to call only two credit card help lines instead of everyone of them.

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