
Avoiding Identity Theft

What is identity theft?

Identity theft is a serious crime. Identity theft happens when someone uses information about you without your permission. They could use your:

- name and address
- credit card or bank account numbers
- Social Security number
- medical insurance account numbers

How can a thief steal my identity?

A thief can get your personal information in person or online. Here are some ways thieves might steal someone's identity. A thief might:

- steal your mail or garbage to get your account numbers or your Social Security number
- trick you into sending personal information in an email
- steal your account numbers from a business or medical office
- steal your wallet or purse to get your personal information