

Identity thieves can be online, at your front door, on the phone and even searching through your garbage. Make sure to take precautionary steps to keep your identity safe. Here are 15 things that you can do today to help protect your identity:

**Recognize,  
Refuse,  
Report!**

Call us  
Monday–Friday,  
9 a.m.–4 p.m.

**800-222-4444**  
Option 2

- **Shred** all personal and financial documents
- Take your **Social Security card** out of your wallet
- Create **strong passwords** for online accounts and change them regularly
- Make sure your **smartphone** has a passcode to access it
- Check your free **annual credit report** at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call: 877-322-8228
- Manage your **privacy settings** on social media sites like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- Keep your **purse** and **wallet** in secure locations when they are not on your body
- Do not put **outgoing checks** or bills in your mailbox at home, take them to the post office
- Check your bank accounts and **financial statements** online regularly
- Delete **emails** that look suspicious
- Do not open **attachments** or click on **links** in an email from someone you don't know
- Before engaging with a business or shopping online, **do your research** on the company through the Better Business Bureau or other third-party review site
- Avoid **answering calls** from phone numbers you are not familiar with
- Keep your personal documents in a **secure location** like a safe or locked box
- Update your computer's **anti-virus** software

If you are concerned that your identity has been stolen visit [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov) for next steps and/or contact an AARP Foundation ElderWatch volunteer specialist at 800-222-4444, option 2, to talk you through the situation.



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**800-222-4444**

Denver Metro Area  
303-222-4444

[www.aarpelderwatch.org](http://www.aarpelderwatch.org)