

Preventing Identity Theft Remains Crucial

Identity theft is on the decline. The numbers of reported cases decreased by nearly three percent in 2010 compared to 2009. Does that mean we can become lax about protecting our personal information? Absolutely not!

Seven Steps to Prevent Identity Theft:

1. Be stingy about giving out personal information unless you have a good reason to trust the requester.
2. Don't reply to telephone calls or emails asking for personal information. Require such requests to be sent by U.S. mail.
3. When traveling, have mail and newspapers held until you return.
4. Check all financial accounts regularly, as often as every day.
5. If you're using a home wireless network, secure it. Don't use public computer systems for financial work.
6. Always make sure that when your credit card is returned to you at a store or similar location it is really yours.
7. Shred all your paperwork.

If you have other tips, feel free to send them to me, Bob Lynch, at blynch@sflservices.com and I will share them in a future newsletter.

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