



## Prevent Identity Theft – What is Your Risk of Identity Theft?

When looking at your risk of identity theft, pay close attention to information that can be used directly by an identity thief to compromise your current accounts, create new accounts, or impersonate you to get additional forms of identification or employment. A quick note on social media: be careful what you post on your Facebook, MySpace, and LinkedIn profiles. As we get more connected, we give more people opportunity to know where we are, what we like to do, and what our spending habits are.

**Critical Data-** This information should be kept under a watchful eye, lock and key if possible. If you have to give this information out, see if the company has a privacy policy that explains the information that is collected and shared. To help prevent identity theft, minimize the types of documents you have in your wallet. Items not needed on a daily basis including your social security card should be stored in a safe place.

- Social Security Number
- Driver's License Number
- Credit Card Number
- Bank Account Number
- Employer Identification Number
- Insurance Policy Number
- Tax Information
- Birth Certificate

**Harmful Data-** Other information to protect can be used by an identity thief to help them get critical data about you. This information can be safeguarded by using a shredder at home. Do not put outgoing mail anywhere that is not protected by a lock, including your mailbox. Dropping it off of the post office is your safest bet.

Some people don't realize how easy it is to get personal information from a seemingly innocent places like any pets RFID tag. Reading this information, an identity thief could pose as an animal shelter, contact your vet, and locate your residence.

- Pets RFID Number
- Utility Account Numbers (gas, water, etc.)
- History of Residence
- Unsolicited Credit Offers

**Public Data-** This information is available to anybody who cares to look. Identity thieves can use public data to locate harmful and critical information. Public records maintained by the government such as property deeds, court filings, and driving records often have far more information about us than we care to admit. The problem with public data is that you cannot control it at all. Identity thieves are getting more and more creative when it comes to using public information to find victims.

- Vehicle ID Number
- License Plate
- Address, Telephone Number, E-mail Address
- Social Media
- Employer
- Doctors and Medical Provider