# 5 Steps to Prevent Identity Theft

### CREDIT CHECK

Keep tabs on your credit report. You should check your credit report at least once a month. If you notice major fluctuations in your credit score, or see queries that you didn't authorize, contact the fraud department immediately. Consider joining an online identity theft protection service.

### SHRED

Documents that contain sensitive information need to be properly disposed of. Shredding them is the best way to prevent criminals from using a technique known as dumpster diving. Dumpster divers dig through your trash hoping to find bank statements, old credit cards, voided checks, etc. Don't just dump—destroy.

### TRUST BUT VERIFY

Whether applying for a credit card, a loan, or any service that requires personally identifiable information, verify that the site you're logged into is legitimate. Do your homework! Check the site's reputation and consider installing a web-reputation plug-in in your browser. Look for the 'https' symbol in the address bar (it indicates that you have a secure connection). If you're unsure, close the window immediately.

### USE STRONG PASSWORDS

We can't emphasize this enough. Strong passwords are your best defense mechanism. And not just for your bank or credit card accounts; we need strong, unique passwords for EVERY account. Even your junk email account. Your front-door security is only as strong as your weakest password.

### SHARE WITH CARE

Don't respond to requests for personal information, such as your full name, birthdate, address, or anything that might be useful for criminals. Regardless if the request comes via mail, phone, or online, remain skeptical and keep your information private.

SAC the security awareness™ COMPANY