

Tips For Identity Theft Protection

Protect Usernames, Passwords & Pins

Keep your usernames, passwords, and PINs private, and do not store them on your hard drive.

Create tough-to-crack passwords and PINs, using a minimum of eight letters and numbers and, if possible, special symbols.

Change your passwords often and avoid using the same password for multiple accounts. You may also consider using a Password Manager.

Protect Your Wallet

Protect the personal contents of your wallet and passport from identify theft. Learn more at www.signalvaultcanada.ca

Protect Your Online Investment Account

Always use your own computer instead of a public or shared one. Confirm you have a secure web connection by looking for a website address starting with <https://> instead of <http://> and a secure symbol such as a key or a closed padlock on your status bar. When you are finished, be sure to completely log out from your browser.

Safeguard Your Computer

- Install a personal firewall and up-to-date security software.
- Set up your security to receive automatic updates for anti-virus, anti-spam, and spyware detection programs.
- If possible, use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) which offers additional protection, which standard networks do not.

Use Wireless Connections Wisely

- Use encryption software to secure your wireless connection at home.
- Shut off wireless connectivity if you leave your computer unattended.
- If using a hotspot or an unencrypted wireless connection, disable wireless ad hoc mode to prevent unknown connections, along with file and printer sharing capabilities.

Avoid Bad Situations

- Never respond to emails asking you to reveal personal information such as account numbers, SIN numbers, passwords, or PINs.
- Keep your SIN number private and avoid using it as a username, password, or PIN.
- Be careful when downloading files from sites or engaging with (“clicking on”) pop-up ads.
- Delete applications you do not use on your cellphone.
- Shred financial documents and paperwork with personal information before you discard them.

Keep an Eye on Your Financial Situation

- Always review your monthly account statements and alert your financial institution right away about anything that is not accurate.
- Store your financial records in a safe place, and shred – never simply throw out – documents containing personal information. Check your credit report annually.