

Prevent Identity Theft

- Women, don't hang your purse on the back of a chair in a public place.
- Men, put a rubber band around your wallet - the friction makes it more difficult to pull from a pocket.
- Buy a shredder and shred all documents that contain personal information.
- Don't carry all of your credit cards with you.
- Don't have your SSN or telephone number printed on your checks.
- Don't download files sent by strangers.
- Don't write down or give out your PIN.
- Don't have your SSN on your driver's license. Ask your state for another number.
- Sign your credit cards. Messages such as "See photo ID" don't work, says Visa spokeswoman Rosetta Jones. It's more difficult for thieves to forge your signature than to come up with a fake ID with your name on it.
- Don't store financial information on your laptop.