

# How Safe Is My Identity?



**Identify theft occurs when a person takes another person's identifying information to commit fraud.**

**What does a criminal do with my personal information?**

Once a criminal has the information they need they could:

- ✗ Apply for a credit card in your name
- ✗ Open a bank or building society account in your name
- ✗ Apply for other financial services in your name
- ✗ Run up debts e.g. use your credit/debit card details to make purchase or obtain a loan in your name
- ✗ Apply for any benefits in your name e.g. housing benefit, new tax credits, income support, job seeker's allowance, child benefit.
- ✗ Apply for a driving licence in your name
- ✗ Register a vehicle in your name
- ✗ Apply for a job/employment in your name
- ✗ Apply for a passport in your name
- ✗ Apply for a mobile phone contract in your name.\*



police.wa.gov.au  
nhw.wa.gov.au



@WA.Police  
@NeighbourhoodWatchForWA

\*Courtesy of [afp.gov.au/what-we-do/crime-types/fraud/identity-crime](http://afp.gov.au/what-we-do/crime-types/fraud/identity-crime)

➤ Here are some steps you can take to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft.

## Online

- ✓ When creating a password, avoid using obvious passwords such as your name and birthdates. Use a combination of random words that only have meaning to you.
- ✓ Avoid using the same password on multiple accounts.
- ✓ Change your password regularly.
- ✓ Do not save passwords to your computer.

## At home

- ✓ Secure personal information in a lockable filing cabinet or safe.
- ✓ Before discarding old bills or expired cards, ensure any identifying information is removed. Consider a home paper shredder.
- ✓ Lock your letterbox.

## General

- ✓ Avoid providing personal information by phone, mail or online and know who you are dealing with before giving out personal information.
- ✓ Check transactions on your banking and credit card accounts regularly to monitor for potential fraudulent transactions.
- ✓ Follow up mail that doesn't arrive on time.
- ✓ If you lose your wallet or purse, notify your bank immediately to lock your accounts.
- ✓ Don't carry your PIN number in your wallet.
- ✓ Avoid carrying documents such as your passport or birth certificate unless absolutely necessary.

Call **000** for life-threatening situations and **131 444** if Police attendance is required.  
Crime Stoppers **1800 333 000** to report crime anonymously.

