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10 Effective Ways to Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft by [A2b Office](#)

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Be wary of anyone who asks you for personal information such as your name, address, telephone number or bank details. If they are claiming to be someone who you can trust, make sure that they are who they say they are - asking them for some official ID such as a driving license or passport is a good way to do this.

If you think you have lost your credit card make sure that you report it as lost or stolen straight away - do not take any chances, find out how long it will take for your new card to arrive and as soon as you receive a new one make sure that it is signed immediately. Also be wary of cashiers in shops trying to take your number, make sure that you can see the card at all times.

If your bank or credit card statements do not arrive on time, make sure that you look into this right away - this could mean someone has taken over your account. Also check all of your statements for unusual activity.

Get a credit report done on a regular basis to make sure that no credit cards or accounts have been illegally set-up in your name. You can get a credit report done through any of your relevant credit reference agencies - it does not cost a lot of money to do this.

Keep all of your important documents which contain personal information in a safe place. Limit the number of important documents you carry around with you at any one time. If you are worried about people getting into your home/business premises you might want to think about getting a safe or having a burglar alarm installed.

Shredding your documents ensures that fraudsters cannot get personal information about you by going through your rubbish.

Criminals/fraudsters may try to steal your mail by having it redirected to a different address. Contact your postal service right away if you notice that any letters or bills are not arriving.

It is not that difficult for someone to take control of your telephone by placing another phone on your line or by having your calls redirected. Check with your phone service provider straight away if you think this has happened to you.

Whenever you move house or change your telephone number, make sure that you update your contact information with all of the relevant companies/organisations.

Make sure that your computer has anti-virus software and security patches installed. Change your passwords regularly and if you are using a laptop keep it with you at all times when traveling.

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