

Take the following quiz to see how well you protect your personal information from identity thieves. Read each statement and write a T for true and F for false on the line. If a question does not apply to you, leave it blank.

1. ___ My mailbox has a locking device.
2. ___ I put all outgoing mail into a postal mailbox.
3. ___ I shred all unwanted documents and preapproved credit or loan offers.
4. ___ I use a good-quality crosscut shredder.
5. ___ I carry only the payment cards I need and will be using each day.
6. ___ I know exactly what identity-containing cards, documents, and other items are in my purse or wallet at all times.
7. ___ I memorize all my PINs.
8. ___ I shield keypads when entering passwords or card numbers.
9. ___ I change my PINs and passwords often.
10. ___ My passwords are all at least 10-12 characters long and a mix of capital and lowercase letters, digits, and special characters.
11. ___ I carry my Social Security card only when absolutely necessary.
12. ___ I am very cautious about sharing my Social Security number, and ask why it's needed and how it will be kept safe before I give it out.
13. ___ I don't share personal information with unknown callers.
14. ___ I donate to established charities only.
15. ___ I never click on links in pop-up windows.
16. ___ I close pop-ups by clicking on the X in the title bar.
17. ___ I don't click on links in emails or text messages from unknown senders, and only do so cautiously from known senders.
18. ___ Before using ATMs and sales terminals, I check for signs of skimming devices.
19. ___ I always take receipts, safely store them, and shred them when no longer needed.
20. ___ I don't autosave login information.
21. ___ I stay alert to risks when traveling.
22. ___ My computer and devices have comprehensive security programs.
23. ___ I stay on top of updating operating systems and software.
24. ___ I independently verify Web addresses, then enter them directly into my browser's address bar instead of using email links.
25. ___ I download software (including mobile apps) and email attachments only from known, reliable sources.
26. ___ I read all disclosure information before downloading software.
27. ___ I limit what I share on social networking sites.
28. ___ I have taken steps to secure my at-home wireless network.
29. ___ I keep all computer and Internet-related security and privacy settings at strong, identity-protecting levels.
30. ___ I know about and utilize security options for all my internet-connecting devices.
31. ___ I make sure my mobile devices don't automatically connect to nearby Wi-Fi.
32. ___ I always log off an account and close my browser when finished with an online transaction.
33. ___ I check for signs that a website and its business are secure and trustworthy before entering personal information.
34. ___ I am careful about securely storing personal items I bring to my workplace.
35. ___ I don't store personal information or access personal accounts on work computers or devices.

If all or almost all of these statements are true for you, congratulations! You're doing a good job in preventing identity theft. If any were not, consider how you may be putting yourself at higher risk for identity theft.

REMEMBER: Your personal information is only as secure as the least secure way it is stored or disclosed.