7 tips to keep your personal information protected.



Across the country, identity theft has become a crime that's increasingly easier to commit… and increasingly harder to recover from. To keep your personal information protected, follow our quick tips:

1. **Connect to a secure network.** If you connect to a network that's not secure, it's easier for someone to see what you're doing — including the websites you're visiting, the documents you're working on and the passwords you're using. To keep your content encrypted, only connect to wireless networks that require a security key/password.
2. **Visit websites that begin with "https."** Fun fact: The "s" stands for "secure," so these are the only sites you provide personal information to or place an online order with. (For your convenience, a safe site will also display a closed padlock icon in the lower right corner of your browser.)
3. **Create passwords only you know.** To keep your personal information protected, create unique passwords for all of your accounts and programs… and don't share them with anyone.
4. **Always log out, and never leave your tech unattended.** When you're finished using an online account, log out of it. And when you're on the move in a public place, it's important to take your devices with you.
5. **Don't automatically download email attachments.** If a fraudulent email makes its way to your inbox, an automatic download could leave you with a number of viruses.
6. **Keep your software up to date.** What's the best defense against online threats? Having the latest security software, web browser and operating system.
7. **Limit the information you post to social media.** And consider making your accounts private, so only your friends can see what you're sharing.

For even more peace of mind, talk to a local, independent agent about supplemental identity theft protection services offered by insurance companies.