

What Thieves Do!

- ✓ Steal personal information from your trash.
- ✓ Steal personal information from your mailbox and apply for new credit cards in your name.
- ✓ Steal discarded applications for pre-approved credit cards and fill them out.
- ✓ Steal your wallet or purse to obtain social security numbers and credit card numbers.
- ✓ “Phish” by sending a legitimate looking e-mail that directs you to a phony website that looks legitimate and asks for your personal and financial data.

For more information:

City of West Hollywood Public Safety Division:

(323) 848-6414 TTY (323) 848-6496

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station: (310) 855-8850

Other helpful numbers:

Social Security Administration Hotline: (800) 269-0271

Federal Trade Commission: (877) Idtheft (438-4338)

Neighborhood Services Coordinator Public Safety Division:

(323) 848-6831



City of West Hollywood
California 1984

A project of the Public Safety Commission

www.weho.org



Protect Your Identity

Don’t let thieves trash your name.

Find out what thieves do.

Find out what you can do to stop them!



What You Can Do!

- ✓ **Consider replacing your current mailbox** with one that has a lock, and never leave outgoing mail sitting in a non-secure mailbox.
- ✓ **Shred all papers with your personal information** and credit card information.
- ✓ **Shred all credit card applications** and old credit cards. *You can opt-out of pre-approved credit offers by calling 888-5-OPT-OUT.*
- ✓ **Carry with you only ID and credit cards that you need.**
- ✓ **Keep all other credit cards and your social security card at home**, in a secure place or in a lockbox at your bank.

- ✓ **Consider placing a “security freeze” on your credit file** that restricts creditors from granting credit without calling you to remove the freeze.
- ✓ **Do not give personal information over the telephone, through the mail or over the internet**, unless you are the one who has initiated the contact.
- ✓ **Review your bank statement** monthly.
- ✓ **Review your credit report** twice a year.

To order your report online or by phone, call or visit the web sites of the three major credit bureaus:

Equifax: **www.equifax.com** or (800) 685-1111

Experian: **www.experian.com** or (888) 397-3742

TransUnion: **www.transunion.com** or (800) 493-2392

If You Are a Victim. . .

- ✓ **Immediately call all credit card issuers** and let them know you have been a victim of identity theft.
- ✓ **Immediately report identity theft to your local law enforcement agency.**
- ✓ Once you have a crime report filed, **contact the major credit reporting agencies** and place a 90-day security alert or permanent freeze of your credit report.