

# *Foiling* IDENTITY THEFT

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**Identity theft** is the fastest-growing non-violent crime in North America.

*Learn to safeguard*  
**YOUR INFORMATION**

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# 5

## **Identity Theft Jackpots**

*(and how you can safeguard against them)*

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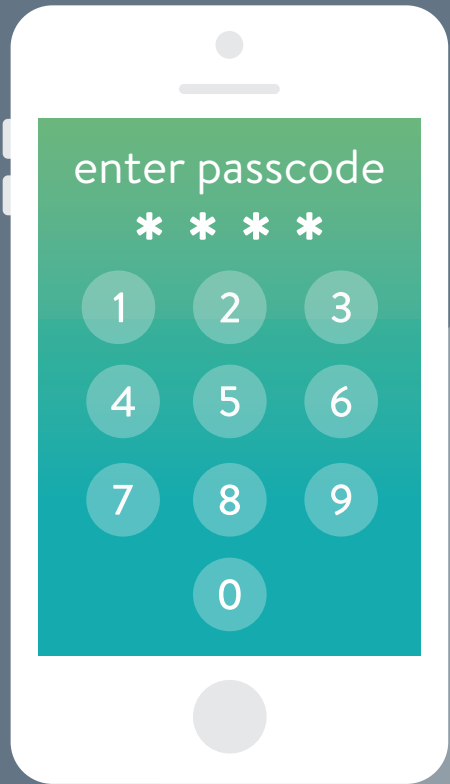


# Your Trash Can

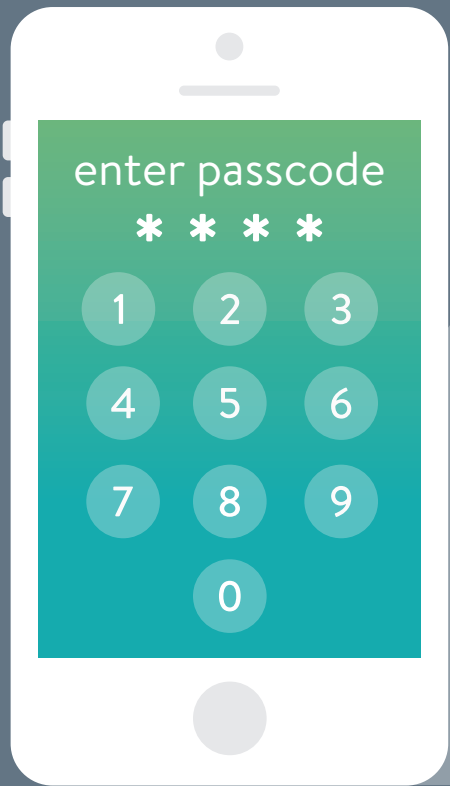


**Shred anything that has your full name and address before you throw it out, including:**

- Envelopes
- Bank statements
- Expired credit cards
- Cellphone bills
- ATM receipts
- Paycheck stubs



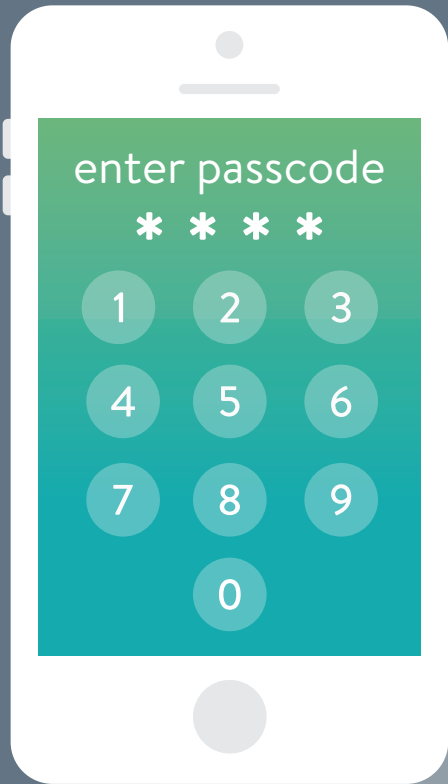
Your  
Phone



**Have a password-protected lock on your home screen.**

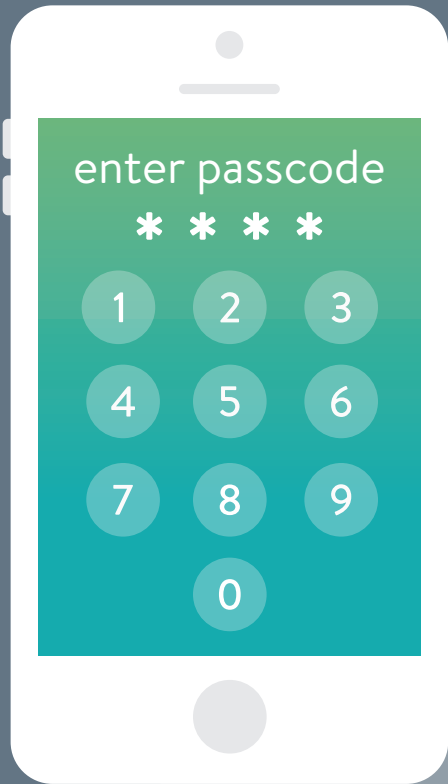
Take advantage of available features, like location tracking or remote wipe.





## **Public Wi-Fi networks are not secure.**

Avoid checking your bank accounts or doing your online shopping at the coffee shop, airport or other Wi-Fi hotspot.



**Don't store sensitive information on your phone.**

Avoid storing passwords or login information in note-taking apps.



# The PIN Pad



**Keep your card in sight at all times.**

**Use your hand to block the buttons when entering your PIN.**



## Choose a good PIN:

- Avoid PINs derived from your birthday or address
- Avoid easy-to-guess PINs, like “1234” or “0000”
- Use different PINs for each card
- Your ATM PIN should be different from your phone unlock number



# Your Mailbox



## **Memorize your billing cycles.**

If you suddenly stop receiving mail, it could be a sign of mail tampering or an illegal change of address.

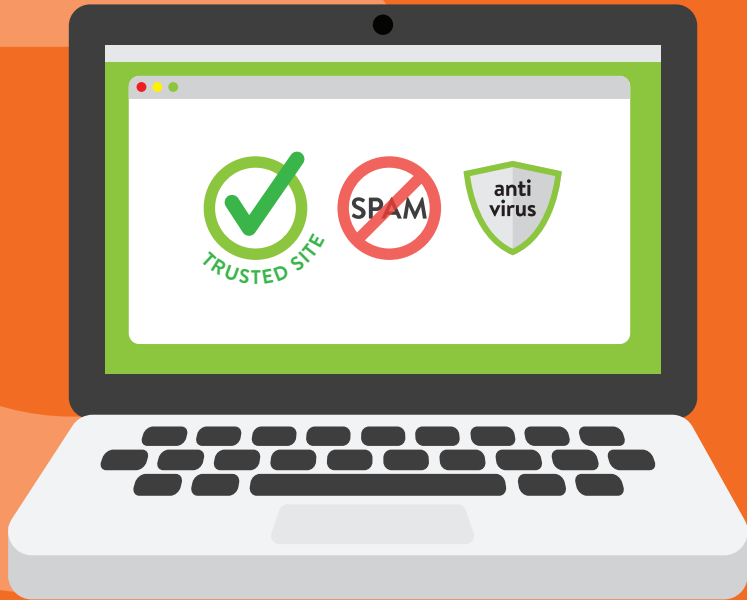


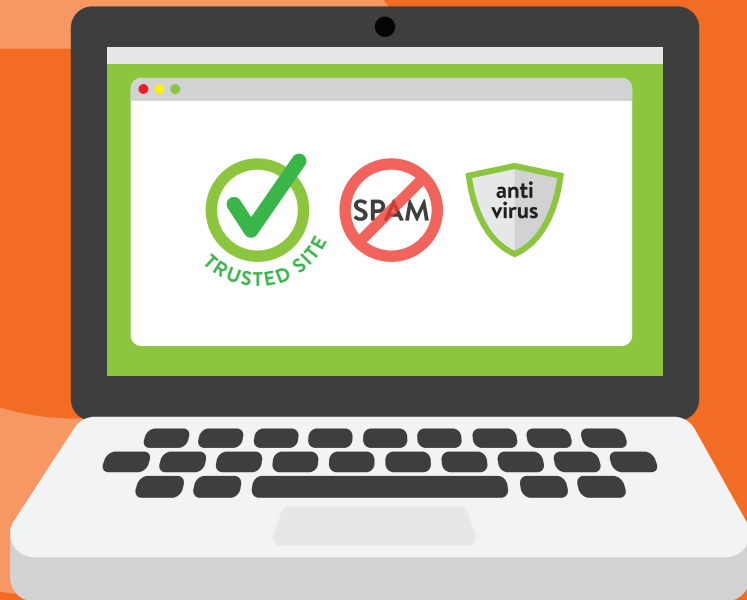
**Lock it up.**

Use a mailbox with a lock to deter identity thieves.



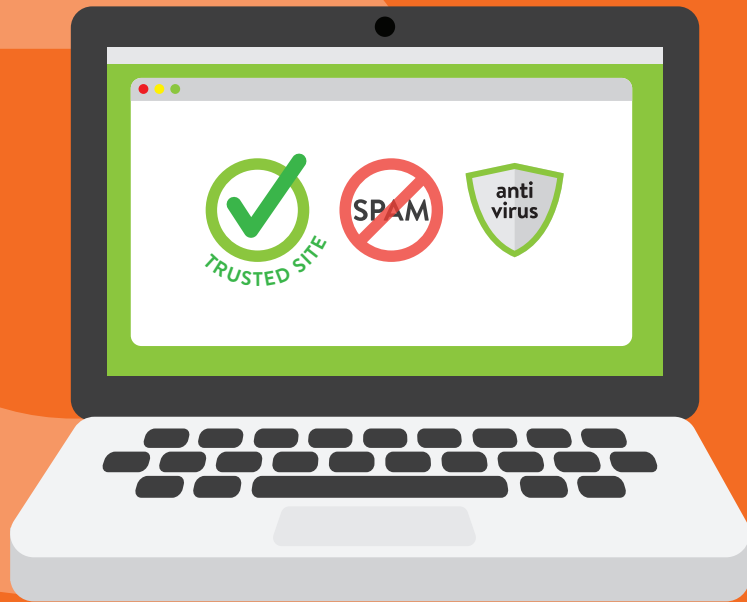
# Your Computer





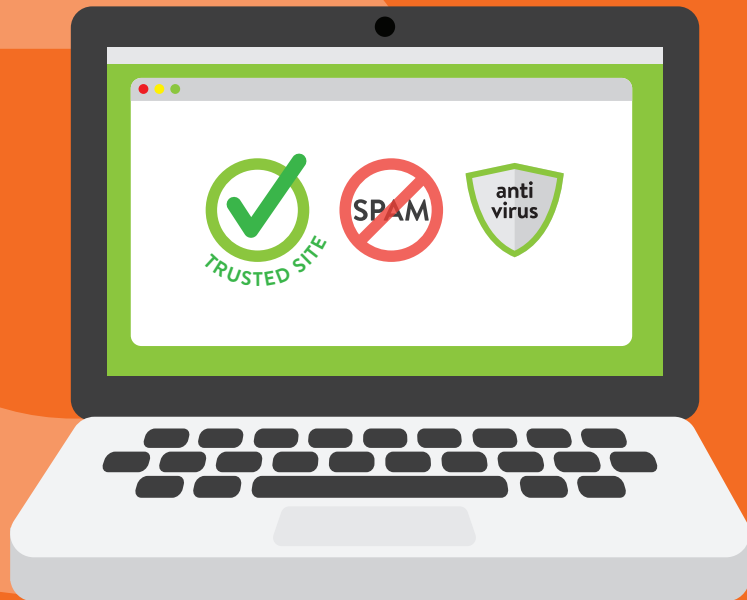
## Keep your software up-to-date, including:

- Operating system
- Anti-virus
- App updates
- Spam filters



## Look out for sketchy emails:

- Suspicious password reset requests
- Requests for personal information or money
- Unexpected deliveries or tracking numbers



## Don't overshare:

- Is your birthday and year listed on Facebook?
- Can your Instagram followers tell when you're out of the house for long periods of time?
- Think before you post

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Sources: Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Department of Justice

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