

## How Thieves Steal Your Identity

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Identity thieves can use many different tools to steal your personal and confidential information:

- Theft: stealing your purse or wallet and using your driver's license, Social Security number and credit cards to commit fraud. Do not carry your Social Security card with you!
- Point of Sale: employees (cashiers, waiters, etc.) who are unethical can obtain your credit card and ID information by writing down numbers or taking copies of receipts.
- Online: a growing source of fraud where criminals use emails or counterfeit websites to trick you into providing personal information. This is also known as "phishing".
- Mail: taking bank statements, credit card offers, etc. from your mailbox or sending fraudulent letters requesting your private information.
- Trash: digging through your trash looking for receipts, statements, credit card offers or other pieces of personal information.
- Phone: making unsolicited calls to you requesting personal information.