

5 Tips for Preventing Moving ID Theft

Moving can be an overwhelming experience even when it goes smoothly. Unfortunately, it can also create opportunities for enterprising criminals. Make sure to protect your identity amidst the shuffle by following these smart steps:

1. Change your address with all the companies, financial institutions, magazines, and other organizations that regularly send you mail. Identity theft is often carried out by stealing mail. The people who move into your old residence won't necessarily steal your identity, but they will most likely throw mail that isn't theirs, and they won't necessarily take the care to shred it as you would. Prior to your move, change your mailing address through the United States Postal Service. You can even choose the date you want the change to take effect, so feel free to do this task early and cross it off your list.

2. Shed and shred. Moving creates a good opportunity to get rid of things you no longer need, including old documents. But don't just throw them away; shred sensitive personal documents you don't need to keep.

3. Keep physical tabs on your identity. Regardless of whether you move yourself or use a moving company, keep your important documents with you in a secured place. When it comes to your identity, a filing cabinet in a trailer isn't secure enough.

4. Always keep the security of your identity in mind. Hire only a reputable moving company. After all, you are inviting them into your home. And, if your movers are going to pack your belongings for you, secure your important documents prior to their arrival.

5. Manage your technology inventory closely. Many households now include multiple computers, mobile phones, tablets, and other devices storing sensitive information. It would be easy for one to be inadvertently misplaced, or purposely stolen. Make sure your devices are securely packed in unmarked packaging, and that they are locked with strong passwords.

Taking these small steps before and after a big move will not only give you piece of mind, it will help go a long way to ensuring the safety of you and your family in the long run.

Source: [Experian's ProtectMyID](#)