
10 Ways to Defend Yourself against FRAUD

Due to highly publicized corporate data breaches, we as cardholders are becoming more aware of what we need to do to protect ourselves against card fraud. This is a good thing! As a cardholder it is good to always be aware of your account activity.

Here are some suggestions of a few more ways cardholders can take action and mitigate debit card fraud:

1. Notify the institution before you travel or make large or unusual purchases so you can allow these purchases and temporarily raise their limits if needed.
2. Sign up for transaction alerts and review transactions online.
3. Use online banking to retrieve financial statements. With online access, confidential mail is not sitting in an unlocked mailbox.
4. Friendly fraud (the fraudster knows the victim - a relative or friend) accounts for about 10% of fraud. Don't leave confidential information out in the open.
5. Don't give out personal private data over the internet or phone unless you initiate the interaction with a trusted source. Do not respond to emails, phone calls or text messages that ask for sensitive information.
6. Do not give out card and PIN information. Do not write your PIN on your card or put it in your wallet. Do not use a PIN that can be found in your wallet (birthday, part of your social security number, house number, etc.).
7. Do not provide your card information to any web site that is not a secure site. A secure site will have an "s" after the "http" in the URL address bar.
8. Install and regularly update anti-virus, anti - spyware and keep computers updated.
9. Shred documents with sensitive information prior to disposal.
10. Select complex passwords for online accounts. Avoid using the same password for all accounts.

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