

Tips to keep your Social Security number safe

Your Social Security number is an important piece of identification. Everyone's is different. Dishonest people can try to steal your number so they can steal your identity. It's important to keep your number safe.



TIP 1

Keep your Social Security card in a safe place.

Dishonest people can try to steal your Social Security number. They can steal your wallet, purse, mail, or even your trash! Don't carry your Social Security card or number in your wallet or purse. Keep your card somewhere safe at home.



TIP 2

Never give your personal information to someone who calls you and asks for it.

Thieves can try to trick you into giving them all or part of your number online or on the phone. Never give your personal information to someone who calls you and asks for it, even if they say they're from a bank or credit union.



TIP 3

Be careful when giving people the last four digits of your number.

Sometimes people will ask for the last four digits of your Social Security number. Be sure to keep those numbers safe because they're unique to you. Dishonest people can find out the other numbers in your Social Security number, but not the last four.



TIP 4

Don't be afraid to ask questions.

Sometimes you will have to share your number, like when you get a job, open a bank account, or apply for a credit card. Don't be afraid to ask:

- Why do you need my Social Security number?
- Can I use a different form of identification?
- How are you going to use it?
- How are you going to keep it safe?
- What happens if I decide not to share my number with you?

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Visit the Social Security Administration website ([ssa.gov](https://www.ssa.gov)) or the Federal Trade Commission website ([ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov)) for more resources about keeping your personal information safe.