5 Things To Do To Protect Yourself Online

- ✓ Lock down your accounts
- ✓ Secure your home Wi-Fi
- ✓ Protect your computer and phone
- ✓ Recognize attempts to steal your information
- ✓ Back things up

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

How To Protect Your Privacy Online

When you do anything online, you leave a trail. Learn how online tracking works and what you can do about it.

Your online accounts, computer, and phone hold a lot of your personal, financial, and health information. Information that's valuable to you — and to scammers who try to steal it. Here are five things to do to keep hackers out of your accounts and your personal business.

1. Lock down your online accounts

Your password is the key to all the personal information in your account. Make it long. Avoid common words. And don't re-use it.

If it's available on your accounts, turn on multi-factor authentication for an extra layer of security.

2. Secure your home Wi-Fi network

Your wireless network is the hub that connects your devices. To protect it from hackers

- encrypt it
- change your default passwords
- and keep it up to date

Here's detailed advice about how to secure your home Wi-Fi network.

3. Protect your computer and phone

Once your home Wi-Fi network is secure, focus on protecting your devices.

If you use a computer to go online, make sure your security software, operating system, and Internet browser are up to date. Turn on automatic updates to keep up with the latest protections.

Keep your phone up to date, too.

4. Recognize attempts to steal your personal information

Scammers try to trick you into giving them your personal information. They'll pretend they're with an organization you know well — like Apple or Amazon — and make up a reason they need some info from you. They've also impersonated FedEx, the Postal Service, the Social Security Administration, and the FTC.

If you get a phishing email or text message, report it.

5. Back things up

Back up important information you have on your computer and phone. That way, if something does happen, you can recover your information. Here's how to back up your computer and your phone.

Concerned about protecting your privacy online? Check out our guide to protecting your privacy online.