

COMMON WAYS ID THEFT HAPPENS:

Skilled identity thieves use a variety of methods to steal your personal information, including:

- 1. Dumpster Diving.** They rummage through trash looking for bills or other paper with your personal information on it.
- 2. Skimming.** They steal credit/debit card numbers by using a special storage device when processing your card.
- 3. Phishing.** They pretend to be financial institutions or companies and send spam or pop-up messages to get you to reveal your personal information.
- 4. Changing Your Address.** They divert your billing statements to another location by completing a "change of address" form.
- 5. "Old-Fashioned" Stealing.** They steal wallets and purses; mail, including bank and credit card statements; pre-approved credit offers; and new checks or tax information. They steal personnel records from their employers, or bribe employees who have access.

DETER·DETECT·DEFEND

AVOID THEFT

www.ftc.gov/idtheft

To learn more about ID theft and how to deter, detect, and defend against it, visit ftc.gov/idtheft. Or request copies of ID theft resources by writing to:



Consumer Response Center
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, H-130
Washington, DC 20580

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FIGHTING BACK AGAINST
IDENTITY THEFT

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

