

Facts and Information about Identity Theft from Docu-Shred

Identity theft:

- Research shows that identity theft is more prevalent offline with paper than online.
- One surprising finding: In half of the cases where the perpetrator is known, identity fraud is committed by someone close to the victim.
- Personal information is information that allows you to identify an individual, customer, or employee. This may include such things as the person's name, address, age, gender, assets, liabilities, identification numbers, income, employment, source of funds, payment records, personal references, and health records.

Steps to prevent identity theft:

- If you don't need it, don't collect it.
- If you need it once, don't save it longer.
- If you have it, but don't need it, dispose of it carefully. A good deal of identity theft happens in the trash barrel or dumpster. Dispose of personal or corporate information by shredding it.
- If you have to keep it, think security, and use locks and alarms.
- Don't broadcast personal information.
- Don't use S.I.N cards as account numbers.
- Don't give out employee or customer information to anyone whose identity can't be positively confirmed.
- Promptly remove mail from a secure mailbox, and don't leave pieces of mail lying around your worksite, or office.
- Use scrubbing software to destroy hard-drives.
- Shred all sensitive documents.

Where does the identity thief find your information?

- Your wallet or purse.
- Your mailbox.
- Your glove compartment.
- Your trash.
- You.

How is the identification used?

- Your credit card(s) can be used for a buying spree.
- New credit card accounts can be opened.
- The mailing address on your existing credit card account can be changed by using your name, date of birth, and S.I.N numbers.
- Cars can be bought and loans can be taken out in your name.
- Thieves can establish telephone or wireless phone service in your name.

- Bank accounts can be opened in your name, and bad cheques can be written by the thieves.
- Counterfeit cheques or debit cards can drain your bank account.
- Bankruptcy can be filed in your name so the thieves can avoid paying debts they've incurred.
- A job application can be filled out in your name.
- They could give your name to the police during an arrest. When they're released, and if they don't show up for court, an arrest warrant could be issued in your name.

Some facts about identity theft:

- Identification theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in Canada and the U.S. In the States, identification theft complaints to the Federal Trade Commission have increased by five times in the last three years. The complaints were 31,117 in 2000, and rose to 161,819 cases by 2002.
- In Canada, the Phone Busters national call centre received 7,629 identity theft complaints by Canadians in 2002. The total reported losses were more than 8.5 million dollars. In the first quarter of 2003, there were 2,250 complaints, which reported losses of more than 5.3 million dollars. Also, two major credit bureaus, Equifax, and Trans Union say that they receive approximately 1400-1800 Canadian identification thefts per month, the majority are from Ontario.
- According to the Better Business Bureau (BBB), New research shows that identification theft is more prevalent offline with paper than online.
- Canada has one of the lowest crime rates in the world. However, newcomers must be careful of identity theft.
- In February of 2003, Ipsos Ried reported that 9% or approximately 2,700,000 Canadians have been victims of identity theft at some point in their lifetime.
- According to the Canadian Council of Better Business Bureaus, personal and business identity theft ranked second in their list of the top ten complaints for 2002.

Why using a shredding company is important for businesses:

- It is cost effective, by outsourcing your shredding, you decrease the cost of document destruction. There are no employee wages to pay, no paper shredder to maintain, no mess, and no loss of confidentiality. Also, your employees' time is spent on more productive activities.
- Confidential document shredding is critical in our information technology society to prevent identity theft.

**Contact Docu-Shred about our Paper Shredding Services
Call 561-0425 or Fax 563-8168 or visit our website at www.docushred.ca**