

Identity Theft Information

Your security is of the utmost importance at Bank of Salem. We believe that the best defense against online criminals is for us to keep you as informed as possible. The practical set of tips below can help protect you against identity theft.

Identity theft can occur in a number of ways:

- Getting personal information out of bills or credit statements found in the trash
- Eavesdropping on personal transaction in public
- Impersonating a bank or credit union in an email
- Gathering information from a facsimile of a legitimate site

Here are a few things you can do to prevent identity theft:

- Shred any documents with your social security number or credit information rather than throwing it away
- Log off your computer when you leave it
- Install anti-virus and anti-spyware software on your computer and run it at least every two weeks
- Be wary of emails from sources you don't know
- Do not give personal information, such as account numbers or social security numbers, over the telephone, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you initiated the contact or know with whom you are dealing
- Store personal information in a safe place and tear up or shred old credit card receipts, old account statements, and unused credit card offers.
- Protect your PINs and other passwords. Avoid using easily available information like your mother's maiden name, your birth date, your phone number, etc.
- Pay attention to billing cycles and statements. Inquire of the bank if you do not receive a monthly statement or bill
- Guard your mail from theft by promptly removing incoming mail

While Bank of Salem may periodically send information to customers via email, we will never email you and request that you send personal information through internet, nor by any other means. Even if the email return address looks like it may be from Bank of Salem, if the message requests that you confirm your email address, account number, Social Security number or PIN; DO NOT RESPOND. Call us immediately to report the issue.