

PRIVACY

Personal Privacy & Identity Protection Kit

Criminals use exposed personal details to open credit in your name, file fake tax returns, and craft convincing scams against you and your business. These steps are free and take an afternoon.

Lock your identity

- [] Freeze your credit at Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion; it is free and you can lift it temporarily when you apply for credit
- [] Consider freezing your children's credit as well
- [] Get an IRS Identity Protection PIN to stop someone else from filing a tax return in your name
- [] Create your own my Social Security account before someone else does
- [] Turn on transaction alerts for every bank and credit card account

Shrink your exposure

- [] Sign up for free breach alerts at Have I Been Pwned for each email address you use
- [] Use Google's Results about you tool to request removal of search results showing your phone number or home address
- [] Opt out of the largest people-search sites; California residents can use the state's DROP platform to reach every registered data broker at once
- [] Set social media accounts to private, and remove birthdays, pet names, schools, and travel plans from public view
- [] Use email aliases (such as Hide My Email, Firefox Relay, or SimpleLogin) for shopping and newsletters

Separate personal and business

- [] Use separate email accounts, phone numbers, bank accounts, and cards for personal and business use
- [] Use a business phone number (for example, a VoIP number) on websites, invoices, and listings instead of your personal cell
- [] Keep business files in business-owned storage, not personal cloud accounts
- [] List a business address or mailbox instead of your home address wherever possible

Sources and further reading

FTC: Credit freezes and fraud alerts: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/what-know-about-credit-freezes-and-fraud-alerts>

IRS: Get an Identity Protection PIN: <https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin>

Have I Been Pwned: <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>

Google: Results about you: <https://myactivity.google.com/results-about-you>

California Privacy Protection Agency (DROP): <https://cppa.ca.gov/>

Need help rolling this out across your team? Request a consultation at nexussecurityadvisors.com/get-started.