

**By: Mike Smith – <http://www.miketechshow.com>
mike@miketechshow.com**

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1. The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your checkbook, they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your checks.
2. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put “PHOTO ID REQUIRED”.
3. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the “For” line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your checks as it passes through all the check processing channels won’t have access to it.
4. Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address.
5. Place the contents of your wallet on a copy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Also carry a photocopy of your passport when you travel here or abroad.
6. Write down the toll free numbers and your card numbers. Keep them handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
7. If your credit cards are lost or stolen –
 - File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation.
 - Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number.