

What should you do if your wallet is lost or stolen?



Call Your Credit Union

Your credit union or other financial institution will review your recent transactions and place a hold on any accounts if activity occurred without your authorization.



File a Police Report

Call your local police department and file a report. Even if they may not be able to help you recover your wallet, the report serves as evidence of theft in case someone tries to use your information for fraud.



Monitor Your Accounts

Keep an eye on all of your accounts. If you have access to internet services, monitor your accounts regularly. If not, review your paper statements for unauthorized transactions. If you see any, report them to your credit union immediately.



Replace Important Items

Visit your local Bureau of Motor Vehicles to replace important identification, such as your driver's license or Maine State ID card.



Maine credit unions are here to help you achieve your financial goals.

To find a local credit union, visit mainecreditunions.org or scan the code below:



**MAINE
CREDIT UNIONS**



Good Shepherd
FOOD BANK OF MAINE

<https://www.gsfb.org>

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What Should You Remove from Your Wallet?



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*Maine Credit Unions Are Here For You
Partnering to End Hunger*

How can a lost or stolen wallet impact you?

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. This crime occurs when someone steals your personal information, usually for financial gain.

Becoming a victim of identity theft can lead to financial loss, a damaged credit score, legal troubles, emotional distress, a loss of reputation, and more.

The information used to commit identity theft can be obtained by gaining access to a lost or stolen wallet.

To minimize the risk of falling victim to identity theft, people should consider removing these contents from their wallet.



What should be removed from your wallet?

Social Security Card & Birth Certificate

If someone gains access to your Social Security number, that person can use it to apply for loans in your name, open credit cards, file a tax return and claim a refund--among many other things that can severely damage your credit standing and get you in trouble with the law. It's also not a good idea to carry your birth certificate in your wallet. Fraudsters can leverage this information to commit identity theft.

Excess Cash

Don't carry more cash than you expect to spend in the near future. Unlike with card theft, you can't dispute cash theft. Also, when making a purchase, sifting through excess cash can make you an attractive target.

Multiple Credit Cards

If your wallet is stolen and you have nine credit cards in it, you'll have to cancel nine credit cards and dispute with nine different card companies. Carrying more credit cards than you need gives potential thieves more opportunities to steal your money or information. Plus, it's more work on your end to reestablish accounts if you become a victim of identity theft.

PINs and Passwords

While remembering all of your PINs and passwords can be challenging, keeping a list of those credentials in your wallet is not a good idea. If your wallet is lost or stolen, someone else will have access to your financial accounts.

Checks

Checks clearly state your account number, name, and address, which makes stealing your identity much easier for fraudsters. With that information, criminals could transfer money from your account, fill your blank checks, and completely drain your account of funds.

Spare Keys

Keeping a spare key for your apartment, house, or vehicle in your wallet is both a financial and physical risk. If someone gains access to your wallet, they may learn your address from your driver's license or other identification. That information gives them access to the location of your home or vehicle--which they now have a key to.