

Take a swipe back at credit card fraud

Credit card fraud can occur in a number of ways.

- *Someone finds your credit card information on a discarded receipt or bill and uses the numbers to make purchases online or over the phone.*
- *A dishonest store clerk uses your credit card numbers to make personal transactions.*
- *Someone uses your lost or stolen card before you discover it's missing.*

Credit card fraud is an umbrella term used to describe any type of theft or fraud committed using a credit card.

More about credit card fraud

Credit card fraud includes the theft of a physical credit card as well as the illegal acquisition of credit card information. Thieves then use the stolen card or stolen account numbers to make unauthorized transactions or to obtain unauthorized funds from an account. Thieves may keep the stolen card or information for weeks before any fraudulent use, making it difficult to pinpoint when and where the card was compromised. Although credit card fraud has declined in retail stores in recent years, the Internet has created a new arena for it to thrive. Each year fraudulent credit card transactions add up to more than \$1 billion in the United States.

The Federal Trade Commission offers these tips to help prevent credit card fraud:

- Sign your cards as soon as they arrive.
- Carry your cards separately from your wallet.
- Keep a record of your account numbers, their expiration dates and the phone number and address of each company in a secure place.
- Void incorrect receipts.
- Destroy carbons.
- Notify card companies in advance of a change in address.

If you lose your credit card or suspect it has been stolen, report it immediately to the issuer. Most companies have 24-hour service departments to deal with lost and stolen cards. By federal law, your maximum liability for a stolen credit card is \$50. For debit cards, if you don't report the loss within two business days, you could lose up to \$500. Losses reported within the first two business days carry a maximum liability of \$50.

Watertown (Downtown)

120 Factory Street
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-0155

Watertown

1180 E. Commerce Drive
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 785-5600

Adams

10924 US Route 11
Adams, NY 13605
(315) 232-2990

Gouverneur

145 East Main Street
Gouverneur, NY 13642
(315) 287-0356

Lowville

5801 Number 4 Road
Lowville, NY 13367
(315) 376-7303