

Checklist for Keeping Your Computer Safe

Courtesy of *CreditAdapter.com*

- Do not respond to unsolicited e-mails that asks for confidential information! Be aware of current online plays that try to get you to provide personal and/or financial information.
- Keep your computer healthy. It's very important to install software updates regularly in order to protect your computer against vulnerabilities.
- Safeguard your online passwords. Create passwords that are difficult for others to guess. Change them frequently. Never share them with anyone!
- Use antivirus software. Antivirus software can protect you from potentially damaging viruses that can enter your computer without your knowledge. You should always use up-to-date antivirus software that's capable of scanning files and e-mail messages for viruses.
- Use personal firewalls. Firewalls create a barrier between your computer and the rest of the Internet. It can help to protect against hacking, "phishing" and other malicious attacks on your computer.
- Use anti-spyware. Anti-spyware will help protect your computer against unwanted software being installed on your computer without your knowledge. Anti-spyware also helps protect your computer against pop-up advertising and slow performance.
- Use anti-spam software. "Spam" e-mail is a growing source of computer viruses. Use up-to-date anti-spam software along with your antivirus software. If you receive spam, remember this: don't try, don't buy and don't reply. Just delete it.
- Use strong encryption for your web browser. The stronger the encryption your web browser uses, the more difficult it is for hackers and identity thieves to intercept your online activities.
- Disconnect from the Internet when it's not in use. Disconnecting from the Internet when you are not actively online lessens the chance that someone can access your computer.
- Remember to log off.** Ensure that you always properly log off and close your web browser. This will prevent others from being able to view this information later.

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