



Shredding Credit Card Offers Is Better Than Ripping Them Up

Tearing preapproved credit card offers into a few pieces before disposing of them isn't enough to protect you from identity thieves.

A consumer reporter for the NBC Today show tested what happens when consumers first rip card offers into a few pieces, then piece them back together, fill them out, and submit them to card issuers. In five out of eight tries, the reporter received a credit card.

Card issuers have rules about accepting mangled submissions, but clearly some slip through. Protect yourself two ways:

* Shred all preapproved credit card offers before disposing of them.

* Prevent the offers in the first place. You can call 1-888-5OPTOUT (567-8688) or visit www.optoutprescreen.com to "opt out" of most mailings. You've had that right since 1996, but few people use it. A study by the Federal Reserve in 2004 indicated that only 6% of consumers had signed up to opt out. That was before the law required issuers to make the opt out option more prominent on credit card offers.

Here's an opportunity to get a reasonable rate on a credit card - the LCU Rewards American Express® Card. Stop into any branch for an application or visit our credit card web page at www.leominstercu.com/creditcard.

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