

## 12 Tips for Protecting Your Mobile Devices

As use of mobile devices continues to climb, cyber criminals are targeting those gadgets more frequently. According to a report by the Federal Reserve, 52 percent of smartphone users say they have used mobile banking in the past 12 months. In recognition of [National Consumer Protection Week](#), March 6 - 12, I'm highlighting 12 ways you can take extra precaution to protect the data on your mobile device.

The First uses gold-standard safeguards to protect customer information, but it's also important for you practice safe measures on your end to prevent sensitive data from being compromised. It's easy to forget that your mobile device can be vulnerable. Any device used to connect to the Internet is at risk.

- **Use the passcode lock on all devices.** This makes it difficult for thieves to access information.
- **Log out completely** every time you finish mobile banking.
- **Protect your phone from viruses** and malicious software by installing mobile security software.
- **Use caution when downloading apps.** Apps can contain malicious software, worms, and viruses.
- **Promptly download updates** for your phone and mobile apps.
- **Avoid storing sensitive information** like passwords or a social security number on your mobile devices.
- **Tell your bank immediately if you change your mobile number** or lose your device.
- **Be aware of shoulder surfers.** The most basic form of information theft is observation. Be aware of your surroundings.
- **Wipe your device of data before you donate,** sell or trade it. Use software that allows you to wipe remotely if it is lost or stolen.
- **Beware of mobile phishing.** Avoid opening links and attachments in emails and texts, especially from senders you don't know and be wary of ads claiming that your device is infected.
- **Watch out for public Wi-Fi.** Public connections aren't very secure, so avoid banking or making other sensitive transactions on public networks. Disable Wi-Fi and switch to your mobile network.
- **Report any suspected fraud to your bank immediately.**

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