

Your personal information is anything that identifies you. This might include your first and last name, address, date of birth, work place, school or financial details.

Why is it important to protect my information?

If you don't protect your personal information, it's easy for someone to use it to pretend to be you. This is called identity theft.

They could apply for a bank loan in your name, access your money, or take control of your mobile phone account. With enough information, they could even apply for a passport and travel in your name!



How can I protect my information?

Use a strong password

Whenever you sign up to anything online – such as social media, email or banking – you'll need to create an account using a login name and a password.

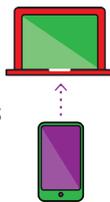


- Use upper and lower case letters, numbers and keyboard symbols.

Think about the information you give out

Before entering your information into a website or app, find out:

- why the company wants your details
- what they're going to do with it.



You should also think about what information you put on social media. If you don't have the right privacy settings, anyone could find out personal details about you.

Privacy settings

You will have more control over who can see your information if you use the privacy settings on websites and apps.



- Check the help guide for the website or app you're using.

Know how to spot a scam

Criminals often send scams by email. They send out millions of emails to random email addresses in the hope that someone will respond.



They may steal your money or personal details.

Only shop on secure websites

A secure website will say "https", or have a padlock symbol, at the start of the web address. These websites encrypt (scramble) the information being sent from your computer or device.



Cyber Safety Pasifika's top tips for protecting your personal information

- Read the terms and conditions carefully before agreeing to anything.
- Be careful not to click on links in suspicious emails.
- Don't open emails from people you don't know – delete them straight away.
- Don't give out your email address or phone number unless you know how that information will be used.
- Remember – if it looks too good to be true, it probably is!

