

RCMP warn of increase in mail theft during tax season

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With tax season underway, police are sending out a simple message — be wary of mail thieves.

The warning comes from the North Vancouver RCMP, who explains that with people receiving tax documents in the mail, thieves will be looking to swipe your personal information.

In many cases, thieves will then use the newly-found information to steal your identity.

“Police are reminding people to check their mailboxes frequently,” says Cpl. Richard De Jong. “If you’ll be away for an extended period of time have someone collect your mail or have Canada Post hold your mail delivery.”

RCMP and Canada Post have also made the following recommendations, in order to reduce your chances of falling victim to mail and identity theft:

- Collect your mail frequently, at least daily.
- Ask someone to collect your mail and newspapers, or, have Canada Post hold your mail if you plan to be out of town for an extended period of time.
- Be sure to notify all mailers if you change your address.
- If your mail doesn’t arrive, contact the original sender to ensure they have the proper address.
- If shopping online, avoid having packages left at your front door. Rather, have them shipped to your work address or held at the post office.
- Be careful when you recycle paper. Anything that contains personal financial information should be shredded, such as statements and credit card offers.

Anyone who notices suspicious activity around mailboxes should immediately contact the police or Canada Post.

<https://www.wsaccounting.ca/index.php/news/32-rcmp-warn-of-increase-in-mail-theft-during-tax-season?print=0&download=1&id=32>