

**Credit scams are very common.  
Consumers need to know what to look out for to keep themselves safe.**

**WATCH FOR:****1. Loan offers that are too good to be true.**

Scammers will often push low interest loan options to unsuspecting consumers as a way of drawing you in. Unfortunately, if the offer sounds too good to be true, it often is. People with poor credit are rarely able to get low interest loans from legitimate creditors. When in doubt, ask for contact information and let them know you call them back after you've given it some thought. Most likely, they will not be able to provide you with any legitimate contact information and you will know its a scam.

**2. Identity theft**

Identity theft is when someone gets your personal information illegally and uses it to make purchases or take out loans/ credit cards. Sadly, identity theft happens often and can have pretty significant repercussions for the victim. To avoid identity theft, be sure to shred all sensitive documents, keeping passwords and important documents in a secure, private location, and consider getting a credit monitoring service that can require multi-step authentication before obtaining loans as well as watch for suspicious activity on your credit reports.

**3. Phishing scams**

Phishing is when someone attempts to gain personal information such as credit card or identification details, by pretending to be a legitimate inquirer such as a bank or another organization. Phishing scams often take place on a computer through pop ups or emails that direct you to fraudulent sites that are designed to look legitimate. Always be cautious whenever entering sensitive information online - ensuring that the site you are accessing has proper credentials.

