Credit Card Safety

Credit card safety is essential to protect your financial information and prevent unauthorized access to your accounts. Here are some tips to enhance credit card safety:

1. **Keep Your Card Secure:**

   Treat your credit card like cash. Keep it in a secure location, and don't leave it unattended. If your card is lost or stolen, report it to the issuer immediately.

2. **Sign Your Card:**

   Sign the back of your credit card as soon as you receive it. This adds an extra layer of verification when making in-person transactions.

3. **Use Strong PINs and Passwords:**

   If your card has a PIN, choose a strong, unique combination. Additionally, if you use your card online, create strong passwords for your account associated with the card.

4. **Regularly Check Your Statements:**

   Review your credit card statements regularly to identify any unauthorized transactions. Report any discrepancies or suspicious activities to your credit card issuer promptly.

5. **Monitor Account Activity:**

   Take advantage of online banking or mobile apps to monitor your account activity in real-time. Set up transaction alerts to be notified of any unusual or large transactions.

6. **Be Cautious with Personal Information:**

   Avoid sharing your credit card information, especially the card number, expiration date, and CVV, unless you are making a secure and legitimate transaction.

7. **Use Secure Websites:**

   When making online purchases, ensure that the website is secure. Look for "https://" in the URL, indicating a secure connection, and check for a padlock icon in the address bar.

8. **Beware of Phishing Scams:**

   Be cautious of phishing emails or calls requesting your credit card information. Legitimate entities will not ask for sensitive information via email or unsolicited calls.

9. **Shred Documents:**

   Shred statements, credit card offers, and other documents containing personal or financial information before discarding them. Dumpster diving is a method used by identity thieves.

10. **Protect Your Card in Public:**

    Shield your credit card and PIN when entering them at ATMs or point-of-sale terminals. Be aware of your surroundings and potential "shoulder surfers."

11. **Use Secure Wi-Fi Networks:**

    When conducting online transactions, use secure and password-protected Wi-Fi networks. Avoid accessing sensitive information on public or unsecured networks.

12. **Enable Two-Factor Authentication:**

    If your credit card issuer offers two-factor authentication, enable it. This adds an extra layer of security by requiring an additional verification step.

13. **Notify the Issuer of Travel Plans:**

    If you plan to travel, especially internationally, inform your credit card issuer in advance. This prevents them from flagging your transactions as suspicious due to unusual activity.

14. **Consider Virtual Credit Cards:**

    Some issuers offer virtual credit cards, which provide a temporary card number for online transactions. This adds an extra layer of security by limiting exposure.

By following these credit card safety practices, you can significantly reduce the risk of unauthorized access and protect your financial information from fraud or theft. Additionally, promptly reporting lost or stolen cards and being vigilant about your account activity are crucial steps in maintaining credit card security.

Remember, UBI Financial Credit Union is local and here for you! Please let us know how we can help with your banking and financial needs! 860-747-4152 or find us at www.UBIFCU.com