Safeguard Your Credit Cards...

Just Like Your Cash

An initiative of MoneySENSE
A National Financial Education Programme for Singapore
From 1 November 2009, banks will cap cardholders’ liability for unauthorised charges made before you report your credit card as lost or stolen. But you may still be liable for unauthorised transactions if you have acted fraudulently, with gross negligence, or failed to inform the bank as soon as you were aware your credit card was lost or stolen.

To protect yourself:

1. Treat credit cards like cash. Never leave them – or documents containing their details – where they could be stolen.

2. Sign credit cards with permanent ink as soon as they arrive.

3. Don’t give your credit card details to people you don’t know. Memorise your PIN and password and don’t disclose them to anyone.

4. If you make online or telephone purchases, patronise reputable and legitimate stores. Use a credit card with a lower credit limit, and don’t use a shared computer.

5. Keep sales slips, billing statements and other documents containing credit card details safe. When discarding them, shred them. Cut up expired credit cards.

6. Keep a record of your credit card numbers and the phone numbers of the respective banks.

7. Check billing statements promptly, especially after overseas trips. Call the bank immediately if there are discrepancies.

8. Check regularly that your credit cards are with you.

9. Call the bank immediately if your credit card or card information is lost or stolen. Note the time and date when you do so.

For more tips, refer to the ABS-MoneySENSE guide “Credit Cards – What you should know” at www.abs.org.sg or www.moneysense.gov.sg