

Documents You Should Be Shredding

BY KELSEY KLOSS

■ **BOARDING PASSES** Shred them after you land: Your boarding pass has your name, your travel plans, and a bar code that free websites can decipher. This code often reveals your frequent-flyer number, which crooks can use to log in to airline accounts to view upcoming travel plans, check in to flights, and even cancel trips.

■ **PRESCRIPTION LABELS** Whether stapled to the Rx bag or on the bottle, these labels may list your name, the date of initial dispensing, the name and strength of the drug, and the dispensing pharmacist's name. Thieves may use this info to refill prescriptions or steal your identity.

■ **RECEIPTS** Shred all receipts you don't save. Those from credit card purchases reveal the last digits of your card number and possibly your signature. Crooks can also

use receipts for fraudulent returns and benefit from your store credit.

■ **PET MEDICAL PAPERS** Keep records of major events, and shred the rest. Papers from a vet visit show a pet's name—which a Google Apps survey of 2,000 people found is the most common password choice.

■ **RETURN LABELS** Shred free return labels you receive in the mail, along with any envelopes with your name and address. Thieves often pair this with what you post on social media (family member names, work history) to piece together your identity. When writing your return address on an envelope, omit your name. **R**

Sources: Tod Burke, professor of criminal justice at Radford University and former Maryland police officer; Paige Hanson, senior manager of educational programs at LifeLock, an identity-theft-protection company; krebsonsecurity.com; itproportal.com; goasalice.columbia.edu; pharmlabs.unc.edu; commercebank.com; nrf.com