

SCAM ALERT

Scam: Card Skimmers

Target: All Seniors

Be cautious next time you use the self-checkout at the store or gas station. Scam artists are installing card skimmers, which are devices that collect the data from the magnetic strip of your credit, debit, or ATM cards when you swipe your card to make a purchase.

Card skimmers are most commonly installed on ATM card readers; however recently, several large retail stores have found them attached to the payment card processors in the self-checkout lanes. These scam artists are attempting to collect your personal financial information, which can give them access to your bank and credit accounts!

Scam Artists use card skimmers to obtain financial information!

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) suggests that you always be careful when using self-checkout and provides the following suggestions for spotting a card skimmer:

- 🔊 Pay with a credit card: You aren't liable for fraudulent charges on your credit card if you report them to your bank.
- 🔊 Protect your PIN: Place your hand or a piece of paper over the keypad when entering your PIN number. Scam artists may set up video cameras to record customers entering their PINs.
- 🔊 Watch for signs of card skimmers: Tape is often used to attach the card skimmers; if something looks odd, wiggle the card reader to make sure it doesn't come loose.
- 🔊 Use chip readers when available: These new payment card processors are more secure. Most merchants have a chip reader available on the payment card processor you are familiar with already. They require you to insert your card into the chip reader ("dip" a chip) instead of swiping the magnetic strip. See if your credit and debit cards have a chip on them and use this feature when making a purchase.
- 🔊 Be aware of strange signs: Scam artists may attach a sign to the ATM or card reader telling users to swipe their card on a separate reader first. That is not normal. If something looks suspicious, do not use the machine!

**If you think you may be a victim of a scam, contact
San Bernardino County Adult Protective Services (APS) at
877-565-2020, or your local police department.**