

Many companies sell identity theft services. These services may be able to help you detect identity theft quicker than you could yourself so that you can take action to prevent further damage. And some help victims resolve problems caused by identity theft. But the claims for identity theft services are sometimes exaggerated or misleading, and may not be easy to tell from their websites and advertising exactly how they work, how much they cost, or what protection or assistance they really offer. If you are considering identity theft services, look for companies that follow good practices.

If you are thinking of enrolling in an identity theft service, read **Consumer Federation of America's** [Nine Things to Check When Shopping for Identity Theft Services](#)

. These tips are based on the [Best Practices for Identity Theft Services](#)

that were developed by

[CFA's Identity Theft Service Best Practices Working Group](#)

. For businesses, organizations and government agencies that have experienced a data breach or want to prepare in case one occurs, CFA's checklist,

[My company's had a data breach, now what? 7 questions to ask when considering identity theft services](#)

, can help them determine which service and features will best fit the needs of those affected.

Trying to decide whether to [To Buy or Not To Buy](#) identity theft services? Get advice from the **Federal Trade Commission**

. **Privacy Rights Clearinghouse**, a nonprofit information and advocacy organization, offers suggestions for [How to Choose an Identity Theft Monitoring Service](#)