MySurvivalAlliance

20 PLACES TO HIDE MONEY AT HOME BESIDES UNDER YOUR MATTRESS

1. In an envelope taped to the bottom of a kitchen shelf

2. In a watertight plastic bottle or jar in the tank on the back of your toilet

.. Continue Inside

BANNED: CHASE BANK SAYS YOU CAN NO LONGER STORE CASH OR PRECIOUS METALS IN YOUR SAFE DEPOSIT BOX

A a Citigroup economist said that we need to abolish currency like the U.S. dollar, or at the very least, tax those who possess it.

The whole idea made no sense, unless of course you are a big government stooge whose end-game is complete control over peoples' assets and a desire to track the purchasing activities of consumers. Now, a new report from Paul Joseph Watson at Infowars.com suggests that this may well be the goal. It turns out that it's not just Citigroup who wants cash to be banned.

Some JPMorgan Chase customers are receiving letters informing them that the bank will no longer allow cash to be stored in safety deposit boxes.The content of a post over on the Collectors Universe message board suggests that we may be about to see a resurgence of the old fashioned method of stuffing bank notes under the mattress.

My mother has a SDB at a Chase branch with one of my siblings as co-signers. Last week they got a letter outlining a number of changes to the lease agreement, including this:

"Contents of the box: You agree not to store any cash or coins other than those found to have a collectible value."

Another change is that signatures will no longer be accepted to access the box. The next time they go in they have to bring two forms of ID and they will be issued a four-digit pin number that will be used to access the box then and in the future.

The letter, entitled "Updated Safe Deposit Box Lease Agreement," was sent out to customers at the beginning of the month."Hide your wallets, the banksters are on the move," warns the Economic Policy Journal.

The reasons for this new policy change should be clear and should come as no surprise. If you can't keep your cash or precious metals in a safe deposit box, what are you supposed to do with it? The answer is simple: You're not supposed to have cash or gold. You're supposed to keep your money in a zero-interest bearing account with your financial institution. Either that or stuff it under your mattress.

And this is where the scam comes in.

First, bank tellers have now been ordered by the government to report on individuals making suspicious withdrawals of cash so that police can then investigate and seize the funds. Now, whenever banks suspect something 'suspicious' is going on, they want them to pick up the phone and call the cops:

"[W]e encourage those institutions to consider whether to take more action: specifically, to alert law enforcement authorities about the problem, who may be able to seize the funds, initiate an investigation, or take other proactive steps."

So what exactly constitutes 'suspicious activity'? **Basically anything.**

Second, if they can't seize your money for lack of suspicious activity, they'll take a different route. You may think the money you have on deposit is insured by the FDIC, or that it is actually your money to begin with. But the cold hard fact is that once you deposit money at a financial institution it no longer belongs to you. And that's why asset manager Ann Barnhardt recently warned that Americans should start taking their money out of banks because new legislation and regulations have ensured that all legal bank deposit protections are now officially gone.

The marketplace is DESTROYED. You CANNOT be in these markets. All legal protections are now officially gone.

… **all customer funds in the United States are now the legal property of JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, BNYM, or whichever megabank is the counterparty on the loans** the FCM or depository institution takes out in order to fund its mega-levered proprietary in-house trading desks. Now consider the implications of these new policies within the context of what JP Morgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon said just a couple of weeks ago, when he warned that an even more volatile crisis than what we experienced in 2008 is on the horizon:

Some things never change — there will be another crisis, and its impact will be felt by the financial market.The trigger to the next crisis will not be the same as the trigger to the last one – but there will be another crisis.

So what we have here is the CEO of the very company that restricts your safe deposit holdings and wants you to put your financial assets into their bank deposit system telling you that there *will* be another crisis. Of course, a majority of Americans believe the economy is doing good and over two-thirds of the country believes things will be even better a year now.

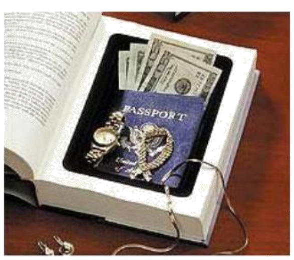
If you think things are great and the warning signs are nothing but fear mongering than we urge you to put everything you own into real estate, tech stocks and bank deposits. Because, as we're sure you've been told, prices can only go up from here.

If, however, you have a feeling that something just isn't right, then you might consider making plans to prepare for the financial crisis Jamie Dimon says is coming.

TWENTY PLACES TO HIDE MONEY AT HOME BESIDES UNDER YOUR MATTRESS

Recently, I posted a discussion about why I keep a small amount of cash at home under the figurative mattress for major emergencies. One of the controversies with that article (which was discussed on Lifehacker, among other places) was the idea of actually storing cash under your mattress.

So, to alleviate those fears, I sent out a call to a large number of contacts asking where they would keep money at home besides under the mattress and compiled the sensible responses into a list of twenty places where you can store your money besides under the mattress. Why would you store it somewhere else? In the event of a burglary, under the mattress is one of the first places burglars look for cash, so by finding another place to store it, you're drastically reducing the likelihood of having your emergency cash stash found or stolen.



My recommendation is to choose one of these hiding places and place your cash there rather than actually under your mattress. I'll even go so far as to say that I actually use one of these twenty myself.

Effective Places to Hide Money:

1. **In an envelope taped to the bottom of a kitchen shelf**
2. **In a watertight plastic bottle or jar in the tank on the back of your toilet**
3. **In an envelope at the bottom of your child's toybox**
4. **In a plastic baggie in the freezer**
5. **Inside of an old sock in the bottom of your sock drawer**
6. **In an empty aspirin bottle in the bathroom (bundled up with a rubber band around it)**
7. **In the pocket of a particular shirt in your closet**
8. **In a "random" folder in your filing cabinet**
9. **In an envelope taped to the bottom of your cat's litter box**
10. **In an envelope taped to the back of a wall decoration**
11. **In between several pages in a random book or two on your bookshelf**
12. **Buried in a jar in the back yard (my grandfather, incidentally, did this very thing)**
13. **In an envelope in the glove compartment of your car**
14. **Underneath a potted plant (or even buried in a small jar in the soil)**
15. **In an envelope taped to the bottom of a dresser drawer (so you can reach it from the inside of the dresser below it)**
16. **Inside of a big coffee cup in the back of a cupboard**
17. **Inside your Christmas decoration box**
18. **Inside of an empty bottle of Guinness in the back of the fridge with the cap seemingly in place (smash it to get the cash)**
19. **In a plastic baggie inside of a flour or coffee container**
20. **In an envelope inside of a DVD case**

WHY AMERICANS AREN'T READY FOR AN EMERGENCY

One in four Americans has more credit card debt than emergency savings.

Let's talk about our saving skills for a minute, America. Because it seems that while we're improving, we have yet to master the skill of setting aside appropriate amounts of money for a rainy day. Instead, we're consumed with instant gratification and keeping up with the Joneses.

We want the latest iPad, spring vacations every year, and the coolest, newest SUV on the market. We want to live like the rich and famous, even if we aren't rich or famous.

All of which has left many of us unprepared for emergencies life may throw our way. But don't just take my word for it.A recent survey conducted by Bankrate, in association with its February Financial Security Index, bears this out. The survey found that 24% of Americans owe more money on credit cards than they have in emergency savings. Another 13% have no credit card debt, but no savings either.

This means one-third of Americans are not financially prepared for an emergency.

Generation X appears to be the worst off, according to the survey, primarily because they're at a point in life that includes many expenses – from tuition to mortgages. Thirty-two percent of survey participants ages 30 to 49 said they had more credit card debt than emergency savings.

Millennials are slightly more prepared, with just 21% having more credit card debt than savings.And retirees are in the best shape, with just 14% reporting their credit card debt was bigger than their emergency savings.

So what does that say about us?

"Savings and frugality are a lost art," says Ed Snyder of Oaktree Financial Advisors in Indiana. "Too many people are living for today."

We make more money than previous generations did, but we also spend a lot more, says Snyder, who believes behavior modification is required to improve this picture.

"Our parents and grandparents were better savers. They were more frugal. In previous generations, there were still traditional pension plans, and yet people were still better savers than we are now. It was not uncommon for people of that generation to pay cash for a car or have a large down payment for a home. It's like there is no delayed gratification anymore."

The behavioral changes Snyder is talking about are not necessarily fun, but they are important when it comes to establishing some financial security.He suggests such "old-fashioned" things as establishing a budget on paper and paying yourself first when you get paid each week or month.For those struggling to get by on smaller incomes, Snyder also suggests looking for savings at every turn.

"If your family wants to go out to eat as a treat, search for restaurants where kids eat free," he suggests as an example.

While on the subject of children and money, perhaps behavior modification when it comes to spending needs to start at a very early age.

Lisa Detanna, a managing director at Global Wealth Solutions Group of Raymond James in Beverly Hills, Calif., organizes financial literacy concerts aimed at teaching children about handling money wisely.To date, she has hosted concerts in Compton, Calif., and Beverly Hills. More than 1,100 people attended the recent Beverly Hills concert, including dozens of kids ages 3 to 17.

"It's all about budgeting, planning, and saving," says Detanna, who recently published a children's book called "Treasures in the Winter Vault," designed to teach kids about the importance of saving and being financially responsible.

She also says our spending habits (and lack of savings) are greatly influenced by the way society has changed and the way our behavior has changed.

The constantly showcased lifestyles of the rich and famous and easy access to Internet spending 24 hours a day have contributed to this wasteful spending pattern.

"For previous generations, it was a really a different time, where we were not as aware of the extravagances of the uber-wealthy. It wasn't so in our face," Detannasays."When we get money now, especially kids, they have a variety of unlimited possibilities to spend that money, where before we would actually have to go the store."

When it comes to finding ways to increase our savings accounts, Detanna, who has been managing wealth portfolios for Hollywood executives and celebrities for more than 20 years, has a variety of advice.Like Snyder, she begins by pointing out that it's about remembering to pay yourself first when you get paid. Have money automatically deducted from your checking account or paycheck that goes directly into savings.

In addition, look carefully at your optional expenses or discretionary spending each month and identify ways to save.

"Review your bank statements every month and make note of money you spent on variable items that you could cut back on and start using that savings to pay yourself," says Detanna.

For homeowners who may have gotten to the point where they have no savings, Detanna suggests now is a good time to refinance at a lower mortgage rate.

"Take advantage of 60-year-low interest rates," she says.

The dropping cost of gas is another area where Detanna sees an opportunity to save."Depending on what car you drive, we are saving an extra $20 to $40 on gas," she says. "Put that money away to start creating a savings reserve, rather than going out and buying a gas guzzler."

Meanwhile, there was some good news in Bankrate's latest survey – depending on how you look at it. About 58% of respondents said they have more in emergency savings than credit card debt. So more than half of Americans are prepared. Unfortunately, that percentage is similar to Bankrate surveys dating back to 2011.In other words, there has not been much improvement since 2011, even while the economy has been improving.

"If you don't have an emergency savings," says Snyder, "you're just daring that crisis to happen."

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FINANCES FROM CYBER HACKERS

Start by checking your monthly credit card statements – line-by-line.

It seems that every few days we hear about another cyber-hacking case. Last week, reports of a Russian cybercrime group amassing 1.2 billion usernames and passwords ran above the fold in The New York Times. The news was pretty unnerving but it has since lost considerable steam as other news outlets noted that many of these credentials were actually counted in other big security breaches.

Also, the fact that the source of the information, a company named Hold Security, was charging $120 a pop to tell companies whether their information was breached made the whole thing suspect.

So does that mean you have little to worry about? Not exactly.

Here's what happened this week in my little universe. My reporting assistant, Kelly Hultgren, discovered that for the past three months her bank account had been debited every month to buy Experian credit monitoring services – ironic, I know – for someone who was clearly not her.

In other words, breaches are happening all around you. So here's the remaining – crucial – question: What will it take for you to start doing the bare minimum? You can't protect yourself completely. But you can make yourself much safer by doing these four things:

Change your username and passwords.

Some 25% of U.S. Internet users who use accounts or sites requiring a password have no more than three sets of credentials, according to an April survey from Harris Poll commissioned by LifeLock. That's troubling because 56% of Americans use more than 10 sites and accounts. (Full disclosure: I partner with LifeLock on educational initiatives.)

To make your life easier, it's OK to use what security experts call a "throwaway" password on forums and blogs. But when it comes to your social networks, banks, brokerage firms and any place else you transact, you need to do better.

Passwords must be distinct and at least eight characters, including letters (caps and lower case), numbers and symbols – not forming a word found in the dictionary. A password manager ala Dashlane.com is very helpful. Or use this trick: Come up with a sentence that you can remember. Take the first letter of each word. Substitute symbols and numbers for some letters. Then attach the first letter of the website you're on to the beginning (capital), and the last to the end (lower case). So, when you're visiting Citibank, the sentence: My brother Oliver ate a big, grey seal becomes CMB0AABG$i.

Review your bank statements.

This is the lesson of Kelly's experience, but she's far from alone. In 2012, the Department of Justice reported that existing account fraud was the most common type of I.D. theft – impacting 15.3 million people, half through their bank accounts. It also noted that bank account I.D. theft victims are twice as likely to report severe emotional distress as credit card I.D. theft victims.

"With online banking becoming so ubiquitous, people view their statements online and engage in more and more transactions online, which all has inherent risk," says Eva Casey Velasquez, president of Identity Theft Resource Center. Velasquez says use the increased interaction to your advantage by logging in (and reviewing) everyday or every other day, which offsets the risk you're taking with having more accounts and more passwords.

And when you do review your statements, be it online or on paper, don't just look at the big numbers, adds Bill Hardekopf, chief executive of LowCards.com. "You need to look at every single transaction. A lot of thieves will run a small transaction first to test drive your information. If it's valid, then they'll go further." This was the case for my assistant, whose fraudulent charges were all less than $20. In fact, she waited a couple of days (after seeing the charges) to act. Her logic: If it's Experian, it must be fine. You have to scrutinize everything, Hardekopf says. "If you see something from Experian, sure it looks more legitimate than Joe's Garage and Liquor, but you have to ask yourself, did I sign up for this, when and where?"

Review your credit card statements and credit reports.

up to never checking them at all.

The same goes for your credit card statements. Roughly 25% of people have been a victims of credit card fraud – yet people review their credit card statements less than they do their bank accounts. According to a Harris Interactive study conducted for Experian's ProtectMyID, nearly one in five own up to never checking them at all.

Likewise, according to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, one-third of consumers have never pulled their reports. These are crimes where the best defense is a good offense. If your personal information is wrong in your report — or you see lines of credit you don't recognize — raise the red flag. (You can get three free credit reports a year from annualcreditreport.com and a free TransUnion report once a week from creditkarma.com.)

Sign up for every possible notification.

Chances are you're eligible for alert options for your cards (and possibly your credit reports). But you'll likely have to look for them and opt into them yourself. You can elect to receive an email if your card is charged without the physical card being present, as Velasquez does, or even one every time your card is charged. "At this point, it's on the consumer," she says. "We need to get consumers to shift their thinking from annoyance — this is clogging my inbox — to no, this is important and it protects me."

Shred your financial documents.

Are you guilty of throwing out your financial documents without thinking twice? Fifteen percent of U.S. adults do, according to Harris Interactive, and one-third store sensitive documents (e.g., bank statements, Social Security card, medical bills) in non-secure locations. Bad move. Dumpster diving is not a thing of the past.

Finally, it may put your mind at ease to know the difference between a data breach and I.D. theft. In one-third of cases, if your data is breached (aka stolen) you will be a victim of some kind of I.D. theft, according to Javelin Strategies. It can be a small theft – where someone uses your credit card – or a big one – where someone pretending to be you applies for a job or a loan. The latter is tough to unwind and the reason to take all of these precautions in the first place.