

CONSUMER TIPS

NEVER use a debit card when paying for gas at the pump. Thieves can steal PIN numbers.

Report any unusual activity or anything that looks out of place.

Monitor monthly bank and credit card statements for fraudulent charges.

Use cash to pay for purchases whenever possible.

If you believe you have been a victim of a skimmer scam, notify local law enforcement, bank and credit card issuer immediately.

THINK YOU ARE A VICTIM OF ID THEFT?

Contact card issuer

Contact local authorities

Place fraud alert

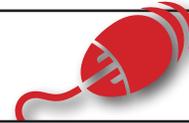
Contact 3 credit bureaus

File online complaint with Federal Trade Commission

CONTACT US



VISIT US ON THE WEB.
WWW.CO.LUCAS.OH.US/AUDITOR



SEND AN E-MAIL.
OUTREACH@CO.LUCAS.OH.US



CALL OUR OFFICE
(419) 213-4406

Anita Lopez Lucas County Auditor

One Government Center, Ste. 600
Toledo, OH 43604-2255
Phone: (419) 213-4406

Do you have more questions?

Simply provide a phone number or e-mail address and a representative from our office will contact you.



WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Consumer Information



Gas Pump
Skimmer Scams

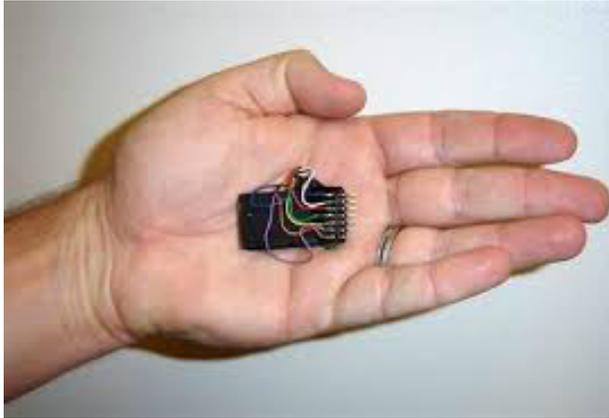
INFORMATION FOR
LUCAS COUNTY
RESIDENTS



PREPARED BY
OFFICE OF ANITA LOPEZ
LUCAS COUNTY AUDITOR

WHAT IS A SKIMMER?

Card skimmers are small, electronic devices that can be illegally installed to steal credit/debit card information from unsuspecting consumers.



These tiny devices are wired to the card reader and/or keypad of a gas pump and can record account numbers and PIN's when a customer swipes their debit or credit card at the pump. An experienced thief can install one of these devices in less than a minute.



Bluetooth devices allow thieves to retrieve card numbers from 100 yards away.

A TARGET FOR THIEVES

Skimming at gas stations hit a two-decade high during the first quarter of 2015.

The cost to customers and financial institutions - \$3 Billion!

Data obtained by these devices can be used to create bogus cards to access a consumer's bank account. Victims of these scams have been known to have thousands of dollars withdrawn from their accounts without their knowledge.



Consumers purchase between 350 and 400 million gallons of gasoline per day. An estimated 700,000 gas pumps accept pay-at-the-pump and between 60 and 70 percent of gasoline purchases are made by credit card.

Thieves tend to target gas stations/pumps close to interstates and highways, that have poor surveillance, and have a universal key lock.

Don't be a victim!

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Weights and Measures staff train to look for anything suspicious when performing gas station/pump inspections. Although a periodic inspection by county officials only goes so far in preventing card skimming scams.



- Use a credit card instead of a debit card. Credit cards have better fraud protection, and the money is not deducted immediately from an account. If using a debit card, choose to run it as a credit card instead of using a PIN number.

- Examine the card reader. Look for a false slot attached to the original card slot. It could be loose, fit poorly, stick out further or look newer than the machine.

- Try to use a pump close to the front of the store. Thieves often place skimmers at the pumps farthest from the store to avoid detection.

- Trust your instincts. If something seems out of the ordinary, move to a different device and report concerns.