RFID Scams

A new kind of thievery or, at least, potential for fraud is on the rise: Criminals who can steal your credit card data from 'Contactless Credit & Debit Cards' by walking by you with electronic scanners, maybe even with their mobile phones. It's important that you protect yourself and it is easy to do so.

The new threat exists because of the radio-frequency identification chips (RFID) or Near Field Communication (NFC) chips that are starting to be embedded in credit and debit cards. A modern thief can use this "swipe to pay" technology to capture your information by scanning your wallet or purse with an electronic scanner.

It's not as easy for electronic pickpockets to get your wallet, howeverits as easy as simply bumping into you to read the details from your card unless you take steps to protect it while it is in your wallet or pocket.

The thief would have to hold the scanner next to your wallet or purse, unmoved for about 30 seconds, so you'd likely notice it—unless you were distracted or left your belongings unattended for any length of time.

You can wrap your cards in something like tin foil to prevent a fraudulent scammer from taking your details. However it is also possible to buy specially designed wallets and card sleeves for both plastic cards and your passport to stop a scammer taking your details.



Here's a selection available from Amazon. As you see they come in a range of prices