

Organizing Your **FINANCES**

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Let's play a game! What documents should you keep and what documents are OK to toss?



Social Insurance card?





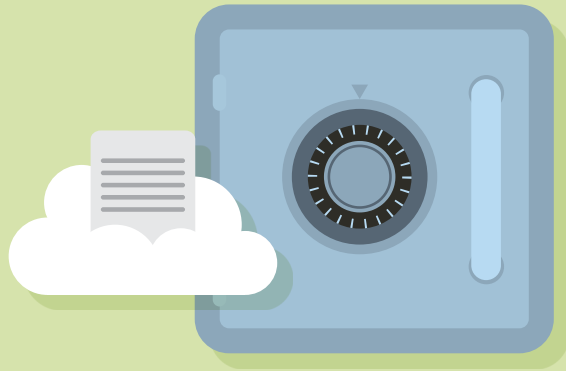
Social Insurance card?





**Keep these
documents forever**

*Ideally in a fireproof safe or
in a safe-deposit box and
backed up on the cloud*



- ☒ Birth/death certificates and Social Insurance cards
- ☒ Marriage licences and divorce decrees
- ☒ Pension plan documents
- ☒ Copies of wills, living wills, trusts, and powers of attorney
- ☒ Military discharge papers
- ☒ Copies of burial deeds and plots
- ☒ Safe-deposit box inventory



Car loan and mortgage documents?





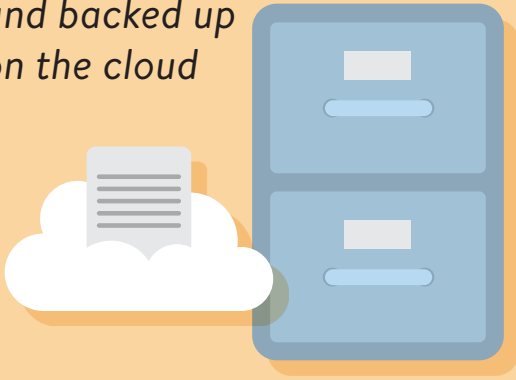
Car loan and mortgage documents?





**Keep these documents
for as long as you own
the asset**

*Ideally in an organized and
lockable filing cabinet
and backed up
on the cloud*



- ☒ Appliance manuals and warranties
- ☒ House and mortgage documents
- ☒ Insurance policies
- ☒ Vehicle titles and loan documents



Utility and phone bills?





Utility and phone bills?





Toss these documents

Ideally after running them through a document shredder



	Toss after
☒ ATM deposit and withdrawal slips	<30 days
☒ Utility and phone bills	<30 days
☒ Credit card statements	45 days
☒ Bank statements	1 year
☒ Pay stubs	1 year
☒ Medical records	5 years
☒ Tax returns and supporting documents	6 years
☒ Investment statements	6 years

Toss after <30 days



ATM deposit and withdrawal slips

Make sure that the transaction is reflected on your bank statement and then get rid of the ATM slip

Toss after <30 days



Utility and phone bills

Shred them after you've paid them, unless they contain tax-deductible expenses



Toss after

45 days



Credit card statements

Shred credit card statements after 45 days, but hang onto those statements that you may need for business, for taxes, as proof of purchase, or for insurance

Toss after

1 year



Bank statements

You only need to keep bank statements for one year

However, if records are related to your taxes, business expenses, home improvements, mortgage payments or major purchases, hold onto them for six years

Toss after

1 year



Pay stubs

Keep for one year; be sure to match them to your T4 slip before you shred



Toss after

5 years



Medical records

Keep records for five years from the time treatment for the symptoms ends

Retain prescription and health insurance information

Toss after

6 years



Tax returns and supporting documents

You need to hold onto your returns and all supporting documents for six years

Toss after

6 years



Investment statements

Shred monthly statements as new ones arrive, but keep annual statements until the sale of each asset within the account occurs and for six years thereafter, in case you get audited



A good rule of thumb: If you will need to venture down to a government office, wait in line at a hospital or sit on the phone for an hour to retrieve a document, then it's likely best to hold onto it. If you can easily pop online and retrieve a document, then you likely don't need to keep a physical copy.

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Sources: Canada Revenue Agency, Jill on Money, Lifehacker.com, Mint.com, Suze Orman

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