

## Storing Personal Documents & Items

Another element of Franssen's seminar was the possibility of having your personal belongings, like your card's PIN or car, stolen without you knowing until it's too late. Items like Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) wallets or cards and Faraday bags are great prevention tools for stopping fraud.



If you own a card with a chip, most likely, it uses an RFID tag, a small chip inside the card that stores data. When it comes in contact with an RFID reader that emits radio waves, it sends the stored data to the reader. [RFID wallets or cards](#) are lined with materials such as

metal-infused fabrics or layers of conductive fabric that block or absorb the radio waves emitted by RFID chips in your cards, preventing unauthorized scanners from reading and potentially stealing your data.

[Faraday bags](#), also known as Faraday cages, act as shields for the contents they hold from electromagnetic fields (EMFs) using a conductive material, like metalized fabric, that diverts and blocks signals. This process prevents signals like Wi-Fi, cell, Bluetooth, GPS, and RFID from reaching or being emitted by devices inside the bag. You can use a Faraday bag to protect your cell phones, car keys, and credit cards from being intercepted or tracked.

You can grab reasonably priced RFID wallets or Faraday bags at your local Walmart or online at Amazon. Franssen also noted that tinfoil or any tin-material bags like a Nespresso pods bag can be repurposed as a Faraday bag.



Here's Franssen with a couple of makeshift Faraday bags; your everyday Tassimo pods bag works perfectly.

Lastly, keeping your important documents can be a hassle, but Franssen's surefire way of putting all your documents in an envelope and then taping the whole thing shut almost like DIY lamination is foolproof. Any tampering will be immediately identifiable and it's small enough to store anywhere (your safe, your desk, or at work).

"Fraudsters are using sophisticated technology to create scams that feel more real than ever. It's important for Canadians to trust their instincts and question unexpected calls or messages. The more we learn about their tactics, the less chance criminals have to defraud us."

- Matthew Boswell, Commissioner of Competition