Five Steps To A More Secure Password

1 – Length Matters

Every character you add to your password exponentially increases its security. Although 8-character passwords are very popular, passwords at least 14-characters in length are the most secure against hackers.

2 – Some Password Dont's

A hacker's first guess, if they know you well enough, would be your personal information such as family names, pet names, birthdays or your address. Also steer clear from using dictionary words and sequences or repeated numbers, like abcd, 123456 or 7777.

3 – Use a Combination of Numbers, Lower & Uppercase Letters and Special Characters

By using at least one uppercase character, you are increasing the security of your password. Throw in special characters such as an exclamation point or percentage sign and a number or two to increase your password's security even more. Use the entire keyboard when creating your password.

4 – Make It Memorable

Using a phrase or series of words can help to make your password more memorable, such as "L0v3YourSh03s!", "B@tM@n&R0b!n" or "R3@LH0u53W!ve5".

5 – Change Your Password Regularly

To ensure your password remains secure, set a reminder in your calendar to change your password every 90 or 120 days. According to Microsoft, while a very strong password can remain secure for several years, a weak one is only good for about seven days.

Want to check the strength of your password? Visit the Microsoft Safety & Security Center at
https://www.microsoft.com/security/pc-security/password-checker.aspx