

Registration tips

DO take charge

DO sign up at www.facebook.com

DO use a valid e-mail address

DO use an age over 13

DO read the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy

DO use a valid picture

DO write down your username and password

DO search for friends one at a time

DO opt-out of Instant Personalization and Places

DON'T EVER use your address book to find your friends

DON'T provide personal information that might be used as security questions elsewhere

DON'T accept Facebook's default settings

Practice logical caution

1. **Don't run applications. It's hard. There are 550,000 of 'em:** Applications look like fun little things to play with in your Facebook environment. They are games (Farkle, Mafia Wars, Farmville), quizzes (What decade should you live in? What is your IQ?) and opportunities to send drinks or flowers (all virtual) to your friends. And malware, viruses and seedy characters. All can access your friends list. All can violate your privacy settings. Some ask for your e-mail address or mobile phone number. **JUST SAY NO! Look under Account, Application settings, and adjust for each one. Don't miss the "show" bar. All applications are not shown at one time.**
2. **And you need that, why?** Never provide your e-mail address or phone number to an application. Never.
3. **Block Facebook's MANY attempts to access to your e-mail contact list.** In the beginning, as you establish your account, Facebook will "offer" many times to contact the friends you have in your e-mail contact list. Don't let it. Throughout your Facebook relationship, various applications will ask the same thing. Opt out. Always.

4. **Fill out personal information sparingly.** Who needs your phone numbers? Your addresses? Your friends already know or can ask you. Streamline your profile. Don't babble on and on about likes, dislikes, etc. unless you want everyone to know. You are the gatekeeper. The first line of defense is YOU. NOTHING on Facebook is secret.
5. **Facebook is greedy.** This information is always public: your name, profile picture, gender, networks. Any additional information (eg., photos or videos) will be exposed if you fail to adjust your privacy settings to restrict use.
6. **Caveat Emptor.** Become personally acquainted with Facebook's State of Rights and Responsibilities (<http://www.facebook.com/terms.php?ref=pf>) and Facebook's Privacy Policy (<http://www.facebook.com/policy.php>).
7. **Keep reading.** Grab a cup of coffee and read this: <http://bit.ly/db21cj>.

In the Facebook world, YOU have to lock the doors and turn out the lights because Facebook wants everything left open.