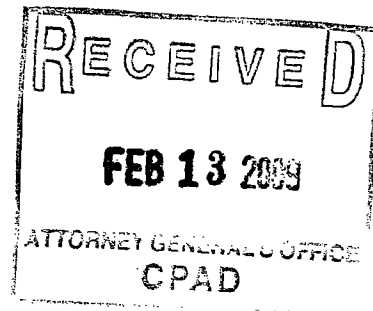




2455 Paces Ferry Rd • Atlanta, GA 30339

February 6, 2009

Massachusetts Attorney General
Martha Coakley
McCormack Building
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108



Director of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation
Daniel C. Crane
Ten Park Plaza, Suite 5170
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Data Security Incident

Dear Ms. Coakley and Mr. Crane:

In accordance with Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 93H § 3, The Home Depot is writing to inform you that we just learned that the IRS 1099-MISC Forms we recently mailed to some of our vendors were inadvertently sent to the wrong addresses. At this time, we are aware of approximately 95 Massachusetts residents who were affected by this incident. We are taking steps to help ensure that this type of incident does not happen in the future. Such steps include implementing additional administrative controls and cross-check procedures.

Attached for your information is a sample of the notice we are sending affected individuals. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 770-384-3569

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey Keegan".

Stacey Keegan
Attorney
Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.



Vendor Name
Address #1
Address #2
Address #3

Debix Activation Code:

February 6, 2009

Dear Vendor:

The Home Depot just learned that the IRS 1099-MISC Forms we recently mailed to some of our vendors were inadvertently sent to the wrong addresses. As a result, the 1099-MISC Form you received from us is incorrect and should be shredded. Your corrected 1099-MISC Form is included with this letter. The IRS 1099-MISC Form contains your name, contact information, taxpayer identification number and other tax information. We are taking steps to help ensure that this type of incident does not happen in the future.

We take our obligation to safeguard personal information very seriously and, therefore, we are alerting you so you can take steps to protect yourself from possible identity theft. We encourage you to remain vigilant and regularly review and monitor your account statements and credit reports.

You are entitled under U.S. law to one free credit report annually from each of the three national credit bureaus. To order your free credit reports, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll-free (877) 322-8228. You may also want to place a fraud alert or security freeze on your credit file. A security freeze generally will prevent creditors from accessing your credit file at the three nationwide credit bureaus without your consent. You can request a security freeze by contacting the credit bureaus at:

Equifax	P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, Georgia 30348	www.equifax.com
Experian	P.O. Box 9554 Allen, Texas 75013	www.experian.com
TransUnion	Fraud Victim Assistance Division P.O. Box 6790 Fullerton, California 92834-6790	www.transunion.com

The credit bureaus may charge you a fee of up to \$5 to place a freeze on your account, and may require that you provide proper identification prior to honoring your request. There is no charge, however, to place, lift or remove a security freeze if you provide the credit bureaus with a valid police report. When requesting a security freeze with each of the credit bureaus, you will be required to provide the following information:

For Equifax. Your full name, current residential address, date of birth, Social Security number and proof of your current address (such as a current utility bill).

For Experian. Your full name, with middle initial and generation (such as Jr., Sr., II, III), Social Security number, date of birth, current address and previous address(es) for the past 2 years. You also will need to provide one copy of a government-issued identification card (such as a driver's license, state or military identification card) and one copy of a utility bill, bank or insurance statement, etc. Make sure that each copy is legible, displays your name and current mailing address and the date of issue. Please note that the statement dates must be recent.

For TransUnion. Your name, current residential address and Social Security number. You also will need to provide proof of your current residence (such as a driver's license or state-issued identification card).

You can learn more about how to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft by contacting the Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-

IDTHEFT (438-4338), www.ftc.gov/idtheft/. If you are the victim of identity theft, you have the right to obtain a police report.

To further assist you, we have arranged for you to receive 12 months of identity protection services from Debix - The Identity Protection Network, at no cost to you. From the date that you set up your account, Debix will place a statement on your credit file asking all potential new creditors to verify your identity before completing a transaction. Using your phone, you can stop new accounts not initiated by you. This service also includes a \$25,000 Identity Theft Insurance Policy, the Debix on-call investigation team to assist you in the event that your information is used fraudulently, and Debix recovery services, if needed, to assist you in restoring your credit file.

Debix has a simple Internet-based verification and enrollment process. To sign up, go to <http://www.debix.com/safe>. You will need to provide the activation code that is listed at the top of this page. Once you have entered your activation code, click on "Sign up now" on the right side of the page and follow the website's instructions. Please note that if you enroll online, part of the sign-up process may include receiving a phone call from Debix soon after you initiate the registration process. For those wishing to register via the U.S. Postal Service, we have included a mail-in registration form. You have 90 days from the receipt of this letter to register. The Debix service will be valid for one year from the date you register for it.

If you would like to speak with us or you have questions about Debix or its coverage, please call The Home Depot at 1-800-654-0688 and speak with Karen Powell at extension 85938. If you have any questions about your 1099-MISC Form, please call The Home Depot at 770-779-1480 and speak with Myndi Walters.

We hope this information is useful. Again, we regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

