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Illegal card skimmer discoveries in Tampa Bay double in 2017

By [Malena Carollo](#)



State investigators found more than double the amount of illegal credit card skimmers at gas stations around Tampa Bay in 2017 than in 2016. | [Times file photo]

State investigators have discovered more than double the number of credit card skimmers in the Tampa Bay area in 2017 than in 2016 — with still a few weeks left in the year. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services found 54 skimmers in Tampa Bay, up from 26 skimmers last year.

Credit card skimmers are small devices that criminals put in gas station pumps to secretly record credit and debit card information.

Tampa Bay’s skimmers are just a fraction of the 613 credit card skimmers the consumer protection department found across the state this year, up from 219 skimmers in 2016.

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