



How to Protect Yourself Against Check Fraud

Check fraud is the most common form of financial crime and is reportedly growing at a rate of **25%** each year.

Current legislation removes sole responsibility from the bank for accepting and depositing a bad check, and distributes it with the defrauded customer.

So how do you protect yourself from Check Fraud?



Sending & Receiving Checks

- ✓ Validate the ID of any individual not known to you when receiving a check.
- ✓ Do not leave bill payments which include a check, in an unlocked rural mailbox for postal pickup.
- ✓ Only accept checks during bank hours so you can ensure the check is valid and the funds are in the account.

Make Access Restricted

- ✓ Shred or burn all old or unused checks.
- ✓ Do not leave checks or bank statements visible to anyone.
- ✓ Use a mail slot instead of a mailbox if possible.



Use only Secure Checks

- ✓ Choose your check printer carefully, ensuring credibility and membership to the Check Payment Systems Association (CPSA).
- ✓ Ask your check printer about their features for protecting against copying and tampering.
- ✓ Check carefully the packaging of your new checks for evidence of tampering.
- ✓ Arrange to have your checks delivered to the bank branch.



Accounting & Confidentiality

- ✓ Keep a record of your next check number and last check number, so you can detect if someone has removed a check from your checkbook.
- ✓ To reduce your risk of identity theft, do not include personal information on your checks, eg. social insurance number, phone number or driver's license number.

