

CHECK SAFETY 7 **GUIDE**



FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT: FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO STAY SAFE WHEN USING CHECKS



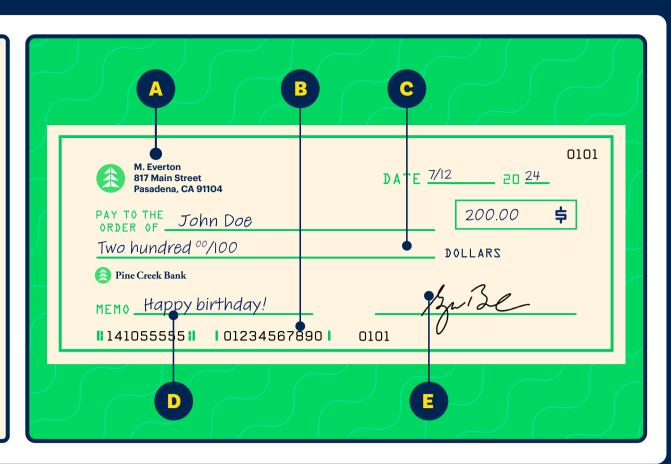
The Cost of **Check Fraud**

Buckle up: while the use of checks has declined by 25%, reports of check fraud have nearly doubled since 2021.* With criminals becoming more sophisticated, it's crucial to stay vigilant and protect your financial information.

RECOGNIZE THAT CHECKS CONTAIN SENSITIVE INFORMATION

An Unprotected Check is a Gold Mine for Criminals.

- Your name and contact
- information can be taken Account and routing
- numbers can be stolen
- Blank spaces can leave room for alterations
- Information in the memo line can be too personal
- Your signature can be stolen to forge other documents



STEP 2

UNDERSTAND THE MECHANICS OF CHECK THEFT, WASHING AND FORGING



Check Theft

Criminals frequently raid mailboxes and intercept mail, snatching checks to access and manipulate your personal details.



Check Washing

Scammers will use chemicals to "wash" checks, erasing and rewriting details to siphon funds into their accounts.



Check Forging

Armed with routing and account numbers, criminals easily create fake checks using modern **printers** and software.

STEP 3

PROTECT YOUR MONEY

Use your bank's digital payment options whenever possible.





Use Permanent

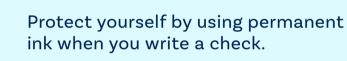
these tips:

If checks are your

only option, follow







Gel Pens:



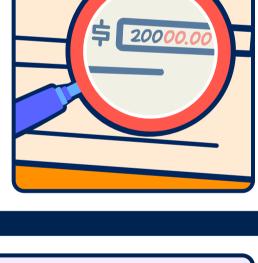
Ensure your check leaves no room for criminal alterations by filling

Spaces:

Avoid Blank

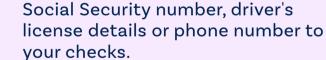
out each line completely.







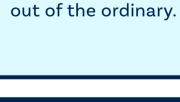




Information:

Don't add personal info like your

Withhold Personal

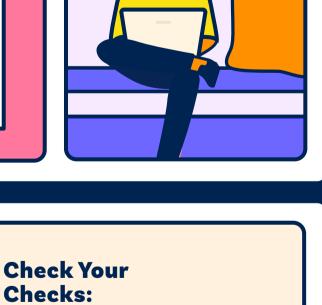


Review

Accounts:

Regularly log on to your online banking platform to quickly identify anything









payee to guard against unauthorized deposits.

Analyze your paid checks to ensure

endorsement reflects the intended

the amount is correct and the

Now sit



*2024 Findings from the Diary of Consumer Payment Choices, Federal Reserve Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Suspicious **Activity Report Statistics**

Copyright © 2024 American Bankers Association



practicesafechecks.com