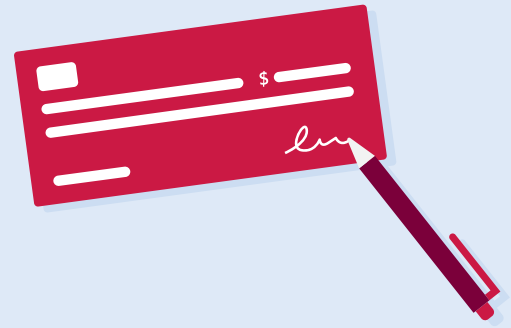




Cheque fraud tip sheet



Cheques are a familiar way to pay everyday expenses. However, they can be compromised if you aren't careful, so it's important to keep your cheques safe. You're responsible for funds deposited into your account by cheque, so it's equally important to know how to spot fraudulent cheques you receive.

Types of bad cheques

Counterfeit	Fraudsters design counterfeit cheques to look just like your bank cheques. Counterfeit cheques can also take the form of a cashier's cheque, money order or bank draft.
Forged	Fraudsters steal legitimate cheques and forge your signature.
Forged endorsement	Fraudsters steal cheques that are written to you. They forge your signature on the back of the cheque and deposit it into their account.
Altered	Fraudsters change the details on a valid cheque, such as the payee, date or amount.

✓ Protect your cheques from fraud

- Store cheques in a secure location
- Check your account regularly and report any unauthorized transactions
- Shred unused cheques if you've closed your accounts
- Take advantage of more secure electronic payment options, such as *Interac* e-Transfer®, direct deposit or pre-authorized payments
- For Commercial banking, leverage CIBC payment solutions to reconcile cheque activity, such as Positive Pay and Corporate Clearing

✓ Protect yourself from fraudulent cheques

How to spot a fake cheque:

- Look for alterations, such as inconsistent handwriting or added letters and numbers
- Cheques that are made out to someone else but have been signed over to you

How to protect yourself from fake cheque scams:

- Don't send money or gift cards to strangers after they've given you a cheque to deposit
- Wait for a cheque you've deposited to clear before you transfer funds
- If you're selling something, refuse cheques that are more than the stated price
- It's best to only accept cheques from people you know directly
- Make sure cheques are dated correctly. Don't agree to hold cheques until a future date or accept post-dated cheques.

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