



Mobile Check Deposit

Consumers can now use a smartphone or tablet to deposit a check into their account from anywhere they can access their account remotely. Simply endorse the check, use your mobile device to snap a photo of the front and back, and deposit the check using the bank's mobile application (app).

This service is becoming more popular with consumers. Still, there are potential costs and security risks. The FDIC offers these tips and reminders.

- **Review and understand your bank's policies and fees.** This information will generally be on the bank's app or website. "For example, find out if there is a limit on the total dollar amount or number of checks that you can deposit via Mobile Check Deposit in a certain time period," said Deborah Shaw, an FDIC senior technology specialist.

Additionally, you should determine how long the bank requires you to keep the original check after you deposit it using Mobile Check Deposit.

- **Confirm when the funds from your deposited check will be made available to you.** Federal rules allow banking institutions to put a temporary "hold" on certain deposits, and require institutions to provide disclosures to customers stating when their funds will be available for withdrawal. "If you do not find this information on the bank's app or website, talk to an employee," said Luke W. Reynolds, Chief of the FDIC's Outreach and Program Development Section. "Also confirm the cutoff time for deposits to be considered received that day; this may not be the same as the bank's normal closing time."
- **Take steps to avoid potential problems.** Mobile Check Deposit creates the risk that a check could be deposited more than once. That could happen accidentally if, for example, a wife deposits a check electronically using Mobile Check Deposit and then her spouse, not realizing that the check is already deposited, sees the paper check and deposits it at the bank. Or, a fraudster could steal a check, alter it and attempt to deposit the funds.

Shaw advises writing "for mobile deposit only" or "deposited" on the back of the paper check and securely storing the check for as long as required according to your bank's policies. After the bank's recommended retention period ends, Mobile Check Deposit users should shred the paper check.

- **Always monitor your accounts.** As you would if you were depositing money any other way, make sure deposits and other transactions have been properly posted to your account. "You can check your account online or through the mobile app," Shaw said. "Your bank also may provide email alerts about changes in account balances or unusual activity on your account." She added that your bank also may be able to notify you by email or text message when Mobile Check Deposit deposits are posted to your account or if there is a problem with a deposit. For more help or information regarding remote deposits, contact your bank.

- Information courtesy of the FDIC