

The Do's and Don'ts of Credit & Debit Cards

Do's

1. Choose a strong PIN. *(Avoid obvious numbers such as your birthdate, house or apartment number, zip code, graduation year, or anything related to your email address or social media.)*
2. Always report suspicious activity right away. Set up fraud notifications to notify you of unusual activity. Once you receive this alert, you should contact your bank immediately.

Don'ts

1. Don't share your PIN with anyone.
2. Don't provide account information to anyone unless you initiate the call. *(Example: You receive a call from someone claiming to be from your bank and needs to verify your account information. The bank will never call and ask for this information.)*
3. Don't put off calling your bank if you have lost or misplaced your debit/credit card. Report this immediately, as someone could find it and use your card in the meantime.
4. Don't forget to clear your browser history on the computer you are using. Someone could use your card number to place an order. It's never safe to save personal information on a public computer.

Information & Resources

The financial tips in this brochure were created using trusted resources from the FDIC and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

Want to learn more?

Take your money skills to the next level with fun, free tools you can trust! Explore interactive games and guides:

- ✓ <https://playmoneysmart.fdic.gov/games>
- ✓ <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/educator-tools/youth-financial-education/teach/activities/playing-credit-debit-game/>



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Smart Money Moves

Tips for Earning, Saving, Spending, Borrowing, and Protecting Your Money



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The 5 Pillars of Financial Literacy

1. Earn: Know Your Income

What is income? Income is money you receive and comes in different types.

Types of Income:

- **Earned Income** – Wages earned from working a job
- **Investments & Assets**
 - Investments can be in the form of stocks, bonds, & real estate.
 - Assets can be in the form of interest earned in your bank account, payment from someone to borrow your things, & dividends.
- **Other Income** – Gifts, tax refunds, government benefits

Ways to Receive Income:

- Cash
- Paper check
- Direct deposit
- Payroll card

2. Save: Build Your Future

- Set aside a portion for savings each time you earn income—even small amounts can make a big difference!
- Create a personal savings plan.



3. Protect: Keep your Money & Identity Safe

To protect your identity and other assets:

- Guard your personal information.
- Review your financial accounts regularly and carefully.
- Protect your devices, such as computer and phone.
- Keep important documents secure.
- Shred or destroy papers with personal data by:
 - Using a paper shredder
 - Attending bank-sponsored shred days
 - Cutting paper multiple times until no longer readable

4. Spend: Make a Plan

- Use a monthly spending and savings plan to guide how you manage your money.
- Prioritize which bills to pay first when money is short.



5. Borrow: Know What You Owe

- Be sure you can afford the payments.
- Generally, when you borrow money, you're expected to repay not just the amount you borrowed (called **principal**), but also **interest** (the cost of borrowing), and possibly additional **fees** like administrative fees, filing fees, and late payment fees.
- Know how much the loan will cost and what can happen if you don't make payments on time.
 - If you do not pay back a secured loan, as agreed, the lender can claim or take the collateral.
 - Your credit score could be negatively impacted.