

The New \$5 Bill
Safer. Smarter. More Secure.



Fact Sheet

The New \$5 Bill and Counterfeit Deterrence

The Federal Reserve, the Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Secret Service are committed to protecting the integrity of United States currency by regularly introducing new designs and security features, and employing aggressive law enforcement to stay ahead of counterfeiting and deter potential counterfeiters.

No bill is counterfeit-proof. Help protect yourself by learning the easy-to-use security features.

The security features make it easier for you to check the new \$5 bills you receive and more difficult for counterfeiters to fake. Hold your bills up to the light to check these features:

- **Watermarks:** There are now *two* watermarks on the redesigned \$5 bill. A large number "5" watermark is located in a blank space to the right of the portrait replacing the previous watermark portrait of President Lincoln found on the older-design \$5 bills. A second watermark—a column of three smaller "5"s—has been added to the new \$5 bill design and is positioned to the left of the portrait.
- **Security Thread:** The embedded security thread runs vertically and is now located to the right of the portrait on the redesigned \$5 bill. The letters "USA" followed by the number "5" in an alternating pattern are visible along the thread from both sides of the bill. The thread glows blue when held under ultraviolet light.

The combination of public education, law enforcement and improved security features helps deter potential counterfeiters.

On a broad scale, the economic impact of counterfeit currency is minimal, but an individual that accepts a counterfeit bill realizes a true financial loss.

- In 2007, the public realized a loss of about \$61.4 million in the United States from bogus bills. While this is not a significant amount of money relative to the more than \$770 billion in circulation, it represents a true financial loss to the public for those who are left holding them.

In order to stay ahead of the counterfeiters, the U.S. government continues to redesign our paper money. The new \$5 bill was issued on March 13, 2008, and a new \$100 note will follow.

- The redesigned \$5 bill will help protect against a method of counterfeiting that removes the ink from a \$5 bill and changes it to look like a \$100 bill. You should check your \$100 bill carefully to protect yourself from receiving a counterfeit. Since both the old \$5 bill and current \$100 bill designs have a portrait watermark in the same location—make sure that the watermark in your \$100 bill is a portrait of Ben Franklin.
- Since 1996, the \$10, \$20 and \$50 bills have been redesigned with improved security features to make counterfeiting more difficult and to make it easier for financial institutions, professional cash handlers and the general public to check the authenticity of their paper money.

