

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



Fact Sheet

The Facts about the New \$5 Bill

What can the public expect in the new design of the \$5 bill?

Same value: Both new and older-design bills will maintain their full face value. In fact, every United States currency bill issued since 1861 is still redeemable today at full face value.

American look and feel: The new U.S. paper money designs will remain quintessentially American. The new bills remain the same size and use the same—but enhanced—portraits and historical images as the older bills.

Be smart; learn about the new security features of the \$5 bill: Consumers can help protect their hard-earned money by checking their cash. First incorporated in the 1990s, the watermark and security thread features make the \$5 bill easy to check.

- 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.
- 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.

Enhanced Design Features: Like past denominations, the new \$5 bill also features subtle background colors and symbols of American freedom.

- The oval borders around President Lincoln’s portrait on the front, and the Lincoln Memorial vignette on the back have been removed. Both engravings have been enhanced.
- The \$5 bill’s symbol of freedom is The Great Seal of the United States (an eagle and shield).
- The background color is light purple in the center of the bill which blends into gray near the edges.
- An arc of purple stars surrounds the portrait and The Great Seal on the front of the bill.
- On the back of the bill, a larger, purple number “5” appears in the lower right corner to help those with visual impairments to distinguish the denomination.
- Small yellow “05”s are printed to the left of the portrait on the front of the bill and to the right of the Lincoln Memorial vignette on the back.

Protecting the integrity of U.S. paper money is an ongoing process. The combination of public education, law enforcement and improved security features helps deter potential counterfeiters.

- While counterfeiting is not a significant economic problem overall, when a person or business accepts a counterfeit bill, it is a real loss to them.
- By continuously evaluating counterfeit threats across all denominations, introducing new designs, and incorporating new security features, the government stays ahead of currency counterfeiting.

A worldwide public awareness and education program is underway to ensure the seamless introduction of the new \$5 bill.

- Though the impact of counterfeit money to the nation’s economy is minimal, the fight against counterfeiting will more easily be won if the public knows how to recognize and use the security features in each denomination.
- To build that awareness, and to ensure the seamless introduction of the redesigned bills in the United States and around the world, the U.S. government has embarked on an international public education program to help ensure that users of U.S. paper money know that a new \$5 bill is in circulation and to understand how to use its security features.

- It is important that cash handlers, who are often the front line of defense against counterfeiting, be familiar with the security features and their uses. The public education program also targets cash handlers, machine equipment manufacturers, business associations and the general public through the news media. Because of this, the U.S. government is committed to helping retailers, financial institutions and businesses educate their cash handlers about the redesigned bills' security features.
- Authorities began working with manufacturers of vending and other cash-oriented machines in 2006 to ensure they had the information they needed to adjust their machines to accept the new \$5 bills, and also allow them to budget for equipment upgrades by the time the new bill entered circulation on March 13, 2008.

