

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



Fact Sheet

The New \$5 Bill: Security Features

United States currency is trusted around the world. This high level of confidence is made possible through continuous improvements in design that protect the currency's integrity and guard it against counterfeiting.

The United States government continues to stay ahead of counterfeiting by redesigning currency with enhanced design and security features. The latest redesign of U.S. currency began with the introduction of a new \$20 bill in 2003, followed by a \$50 bill in 2004 and a \$10 bill in 2006. The new \$5 bill was issued on March 13, 2008, and a new \$100 note will follow.

Security Features

The redesigned \$5 bills are safer, smarter and more secure: **safer** because they're easier to check; **smarter** to stay ahead of savvy counterfeiters; and **more secure** to protect the integrity of U.S. currency. Because security features are difficult for counterfeiters to reproduce well, they often do not try, hoping that cash handlers and the public will not check their money.

The redesigned \$5 bill retains two of the most important security features that were first introduced in the 1990s and are easy to check.

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.

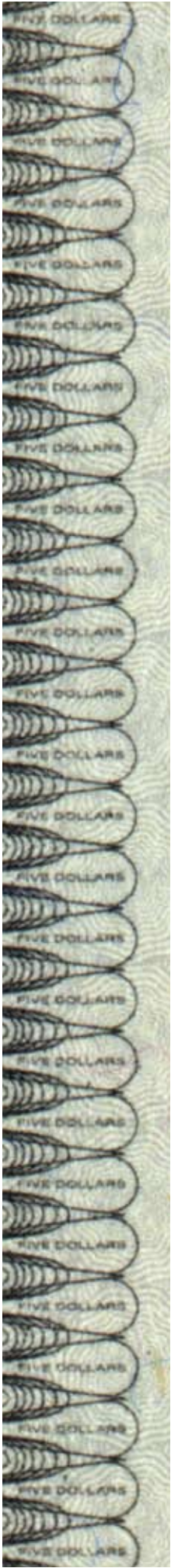
Security Thread: The embedded security thread runs vertically and is now located to the right of the portrait on the redesigned \$5 bill. The letters "USA" followed by the number "5" in an alternating pattern are visible along the thread from both sides of the bill. The thread glows blue when held under ultraviolet light.

Design Features

The new bills remain the same size and use the same, but enhanced, portraits and historical images. Above all, the world will continue to recognize the new money as quintessentially American. Design updates have not only added complexity to the bill to make counterfeiting more difficult, but other features have also been included to help the public to tell denominations apart, particularly those persons with visual impairments. The back of the \$5 bill features a larger, purple number "5" in the lower right corner to help those who have visual impairments to distinguish the denomination.

Color: Because color can be duplicated by potential counterfeiters, it should not be used to verify the authenticity of paper money. Adding color to the bill's design, however, does add complexity to the design. The most noticeable difference in the newly designed bill is the addition of light purple in the center of the bill, which blends into gray near the edges. 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.

Symbols of Freedom: A new American symbol of freedom has been added to the background of the redesigned \$5 bill—The Great Seal of the United States, featuring an eagle and shield, is printed in purple to the right of the portrait of President Lincoln. An arc of purple stars surrounds the portrait and The Great Seal. The symbols of freedom differ for each denomination.



Portrait and Vignette: The oval borders around President Lincoln’s portrait on the front, and the Lincoln Memorial vignette on the back have been removed. The portrait has been moved up and the shoulders have been extended into the border. Engraving details have been added to the vignette, framing the Lincoln Memorial against a sky full of clouds.

Other Features

Microprinting: Because they are so small, microprinted words are hard to replicate. The redesigned \$5 bill features microprinting on the front of the bill in three areas: the words “FIVE DOLLARS” can be found repeated inside the left and right borders of the bill; the words “E PLURIBUS UNUM” appear at the top of the shield within The Great Seal; and the word “USA” is repeated between the columns of the shield. On the back of the bill the words “USA FIVE” appear along one edge of the large purple “5” low-vision feature.

Low-Vision Feature: The large, easy-to-read number “5” in the lower right corner on the back of the bill, which helps those with visual impairments to distinguish the denomination, has been enlarged in the new \$5 bill design, and is printed in high-contrast purple ink.

Federal Reserve Indicators: A universal seal to the left of the portrait represents the entire Federal Reserve System. A letter and number beneath the left serial number identifies the issuing Federal Reserve Bank.

Serial Numbers: The unique combination of eleven numbers and letters appears twice on the front of the bill. On the new \$5 bill, the left serial number has shifted slightly to the right, compared with previous designs.

A Smooth Transition

The goal of the public education and awareness program is the seamless introduction of the redesigned \$5 bills in the United States and around the world. The U.S. government works closely with the business community, national organizations and foreign central banks to ensure a smooth transition for the redesigned bills.

More U.S. currency circulates in the world than any other currency. In fact, more than \$770 billion circulates worldwide. With this large volume of U.S. currency in circulation, the public education and awareness program has proven vital when introducing past newly designed currency. Similar efforts are continuing for the new \$5 bill to inform the stakeholders and the general public about the new changes and how to utilize the security features to authenticate currency.

Using the old design \$5: You won’t have to exchange your old \$5 bills for the new ones. Your old money will **always** be good. In fact, every U.S. bill issued since 1861 is still redeemable today at full face value and will continue to be legal currency. In addition, there will be no recall or devaluation of any U.S. bills as the United States has never devalued its currency and will not do so now.