



The New \$5 Bill

Safer. Smarter. More Secure.



A new \$5 bill, entering circulation in early 2008, is the latest redesigned denomination of United States currency.

The United States government continues to stay ahead of counterfeiting by redesigning currency with enhanced designs and security features. The 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. A redesigned \$100 bill is scheduled to follow the new \$5 bill.

The redesigned bills are **safer, smarter and more secure**:

Safer because they are easier to check;

Smarter to stay ahead of savvy counterfeiters; and,

More secure to protect the integrity of U.S. currency.

While the U.S. government has kept counterfeiting of U.S. currency at low levels through enhanced security features, aggressive law enforcement, and increased efforts to inform the public about how to check their currency, an educated consumer remains the best defense against counterfeiting.

Help protect your hard-earned money: learn the security features of the new \$5 bill and check your money.

A Smooth Transition

While the look of U.S. currency is undergoing subtle design changes, all bills issued since 1861 will be honored at their full face value. There is no need to trade in your bills, and there will be no recall or devaluation of any U.S. currency. The United States has never devalued its currency. As new currency is phased in, worn bills will be retired by the Federal Reserve when they return through the banking system.

If You Suspect a Counterfeit Bill

If you receive a bill that you suspect may be counterfeit or if you question a bill that is already in your possession, turn it over to local police. If the bill is genuine, it will be returned to you as soon as possible. If the bill is counterfeit, you will not be reimbursed. It is against the law to knowingly pass a counterfeit bill.

Other Currency Designs in Circulation



2003—The \$20 bill was redesigned to include shades of green, peach and blue with images of American eagles.



2004—The \$50 bill was redesigned to include shades of blue and red along with images of the American flag.



2006—The \$10 bill features shades of orange, yellow and red with images of the Statue of Liberty's torch.



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The United States government continues to stay ahead of counterfeiting by introducing new currency with enhanced designs and security features. A new \$5 bill entering circulation in early 2008 will be followed later by a new \$100 bill. The new \$20 bill was introduced in 2003, the new \$50 bill in 2004, and the new \$10 bill in 2006.

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



Watermark

A second watermark has been added to the redesigned \$5 bill. Hold the bill up to the light and look for a column of three smaller "5"s positioned to the left of the portrait. The watermark is part of the paper itself and can be seen from both sides of the bill.

Security Thread

Hold the bill up to the light and look for the security thread, or plastic strip, that is embedded in the paper and runs vertically to the right of the portrait. 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. In older design \$5 bills, the security thread was located to the left of the portrait.

Watermark

Hold the bill up to the light and look for a large number "5" watermark located to the right of the portrait. It replaces the watermark portrait of President Lincoln found on older design \$5 bills. Its location is highlighted by a blank window incorporated into the background design.



Symbol 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.



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.



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.



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 in 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.



Paper

Currency paper is one-fourth linen and three-fourths cotton, and contains red and blue fibers.



Color

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.



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.

For more information about new currency designs visit www.moneyfactory.gov/newmoney