

Debit Cards

Debit cards are a way to pay for things. They use money from your checking account at the bank. They can be convenient, but to avoid spending more money than you have, keep track of how much you spend.

How to choose a debit card?

A bank usually gives you a debit card when you open a checking account. Educate yourself about the various fees associated with using it. This information can be obtained from the bank's website or by visiting your local branch office in person. Find out what the cost is if you:

- have a checking account
- use a debit card
- get cash from ATMs at other banks
- have less money in your account than the bank requires
- spend more money than you have in your account

Compare the answers. Find the bank and account that meets your needs.

How can I protect my debit card?

- Keep your debit card number and PIN private.
- Do not use your debit card for online purchases.
- If you lose your debit card, report it to your bank right away. They will cancel the card and send you a new one.
- Ask for account alerts. This can let you know if your account has unauthorized charges or less money in it than you think.

How can I keep track of my money?

- Write down how much money you spend with your debit card.
- Write down how much money you take out of the ATM. Remember to add the fees.
- Use your monthly budget to schedule payments for regular bills.
- Look at your bank statement whenever it comes. Make sure it is what you expected.
- Sign up to receive alerts from your bank.