

The New \$5 Bill

Safer. Smarter. More Secure.



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.

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



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.

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.



New Features



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.



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.



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.

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.

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