

Cybersecurity Corner

Check fraud is becoming more sophisticated as artificial intelligence (AI), advanced digital tools and stolen information make fake checks harder to spot. The use of checks may be declining, but check crimes are actually on the rise due to new, creative, criminal schemes. Once a check is stolen, it can be altered or signed on your behalf to withdraw money from your account, and there are online marketplaces where criminals will sell stolen checks for other criminals to use for fraud.

Luckily, there are steps you can take to protect yourself:

- **Pay Digitally.** Reduce the number of checks you send and utilize card or digital payment methods instead.
- **Go to the Post Office.** If you must mail a check, use the secure mailbox inside a USPS facility or hand the envelope over to a postal worker.
- **Follow Up.** If you mail a check, confirm with the payee that they received it.
- **Monitor Accounts.** Set up account alerts and review statements regularly. Most banks will provide an option for an image of each check to be viewable on statements.
- **Report Quickly.** Approximately 50% of stolen check images are posted online for sale within eight days of theft. As soon as you identify an account or payment anomaly, notify your bank to put a stop payment on the check and a freeze on your account. File a police report and submit a separate report with the Federal Trade Commission.



Click below for more information
from PNC about check fraud.

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