

# Keep Your Debit Card Secure From Theft



## A LOST OR STOLEN DEBIT CARD IN THE WRONG HANDS CAN DO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME

A debit card is a great tool for you but also an easy target for scammers and thieves. Why? A stolen debit card is easy to use:

Many businesses do not check the signature on a receipt against the signature on a debit card.

Many states do not require a signature for purchases below a certain limit.

Internet transactions with a debit card often only require a name and debit card number.

## Watch Out For Skimming

Card skimming refers to various methods used to steal debit card numbers and personal identification numbers (PINs). These methods range from simple “shoulder surfing” (an individual looks over your shoulder to obtain your card information) to more sophisticated equipment such as cameras and electronic card readers that are attached to an ATM or used by an unscrupulous cashier to electronically record your card information.

## An Ounce of Prevention

Businesses can deter debit card abuse by scrutinizing signatures and asking for another form of identification to confirm the rightful owner authorizes the purchase. You can also prevent theft with your debit card by taking a few precautions:

- Keep your card and password secure. Do not carry your personal identification number (PIN) with your card.
- Protect the privacy of your transaction. Do not let anyone see you enter your password while you are standing at an ATM.
- Be suspicious. In the U.S. and abroad, criminals have used artificial fronts on ATM machines and cameras to steal card information and drain accounts.
- If you notice something strange about an ATM, skip your transaction and notify your financial institution. Do not let your card out of your sight.

## Report a Lost or Stolen Debit Card Immediately

If you notify your financial institution within two business days after you realize your debit card is missing, you will not be responsible for more than \$50 of unauthorized activity. Your liability may increase if you do not report the loss of your card promptly.

If someone makes fraudulent withdrawals on your account using your debit card, you will not be held liable if you notify your financial institution within 60 days of receiving your statement showing the unauthorized activity.

