

# Tips to Prevent Check Fraud & Protect Mail

The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) and the Postal Inspection Service emphasize the following tips to help protect against check fraud:

## Tips to Prevent Check Fraud and Protect Mail

- Send checks securely using the letter slots inside your Post Office or by handing them directly to a letter carrier. Pick up your mail promptly and avoid leaving it in your mailbox overnight.
- Contact the sender if you don't receive mail you're expecting.
- If you're heading out of town, ask the local Post Office to hold your mail until you return.
- Sign up for Informed Delivery at USPS.com to receive daily email notifications of incoming mail and packages.

## Additional Tips to Protect Checks

- Use pens with indelible black ink and avoid leaving blank spaces on checks to reduce the risk of alteration.
- Monitor your accounts regularly using online or mobile banking and verify that checks reach their intended recipient(s).

## Steps to Take if You Are a Victim of Check Fraud

- Report fraudulent activity to your community bank and request copies of altered or counterfeit checks for your records.
- Provide law enforcement with copies of fraudulent checks and details about how, when, and where the fraud occurred to assist their investigation.

**Learn more by visiting:** [https://www.icba.org/newsroom/news-and-articles/2025/02/20/icba-and-u.s.-postal-inspection-service-partner-to-help-community-banks-combat-check-fraud?utm\\_campaign=NewsWatch%20Today&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-\\_2-1\\_YT3D-KZvaXqa-D\\_UCa-Nwl8Nw8wyjRGy4vW3NyAX\\_0LcFfz4Pkdld06fuHBf59QKDsQgh9GZfo9ZRNOKCGol\\_3A&\\_hsmi=348306469&utm\\_content=348307528&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.icba.org/newsroom/news-and-articles/2025/02/20/icba-and-u.s.-postal-inspection-service-partner-to-help-community-banks-combat-check-fraud?utm_campaign=NewsWatch%20Today&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_2-1_YT3D-KZvaXqa-D_UCa-Nwl8Nw8wyjRGy4vW3NyAX_0LcFfz4Pkdld06fuHBf59QKDsQgh9GZfo9ZRNOKCGol_3A&_hsmi=348306469&utm_content=348307528&utm_source=hs_email)