

How to Detect Counterfeit Money

The Franklin Police Department has assembled the following information to help merchants recognize counterfeit currency. If you feel that a bill is counterfeit, contact the police immediately. If the individual attempting to pass the counterfeit bill is in your presence, gather all information you can without alarming the person. Not everyone possessing a counterfeit bill is aware of what they have. Individuals sometimes receive a counterfeit bill without knowing, so allow law enforcement officers to make the determination.

You can help guard against the threat from counterfeiters by becoming more familiar with United States currency. Look at the money you receive. Compare a suspect note with a genuine note of the same denomination and series, paying attention to the quality of printing and paper characteristics. Look for differences, not similarities. Genuine currency paper has tiny red and blue fibers embedded throughout. Often counterfeiters try to simulate these fibers by printing tiny red and blue lines on their paper. Close inspection reveals, however, that on the counterfeit note, the lines are printed on the surface, not embedded in the paper.

Detection Tips

- Hold the bill to a light source to inspect Security Thread and Watermark.
 - Check placement of the threads:
 - \$100 - between FRB & picture
 - \$50 - between picture & T-Seal
 - \$20 - left of FRB
 - \$10 - between picture & T-Seal
 - \$5 - center to left FRB
- Watermark and Portrait on front should look the same.
- Portrait on genuine bill has sharp clear lines.
- Treasury Seal:
 - Seal is green on Federal Reserve Notes.
 - Seal is red on U.S. Notes.
 - The Seal's saw tooth points should appear sharp and clean.
- Place bill under a UV light.
 - Security thread will glow a certain color depending on denomination.
 - \$100 - red/pink
 - \$50 - yellow
 - \$20 - green
 - \$10 - orange
 - \$5 - blue
- The \$100 bill is now the highest denomination being printed.
 - Other security features include:
 - Red & blue fibers
 - Micro printing
 - Color shifting ink on lower right 100 (green to black)

If someone is attempting to pass a counterfeit bill, try to delay the passer. Don't give the bill back and immediately call the Police Department. If you suspect a bill in your possession may be counterfeit, you can contact your local law enforcement agency or Secret Service at (805) 339-9180 or (213) 894-4830 - 24 hrs/day or visit the U.S. Department of Treasury at www.usdollar.gov.

Beware of Quick Change Artist

The best way to prevent being taken by a quick change artist is to never give him/her the opportunity to confuse you.

- Be cautious of larger bills (\$20 and up) and customers making small purchases.
- Remember, large bills are bait used to commit their crime.
- Refuse to play the game.
- This will show your confidence and put him/her mentally on the defensive.
- Take your time. Call for your supervisor or co-worker to witness what is going on.