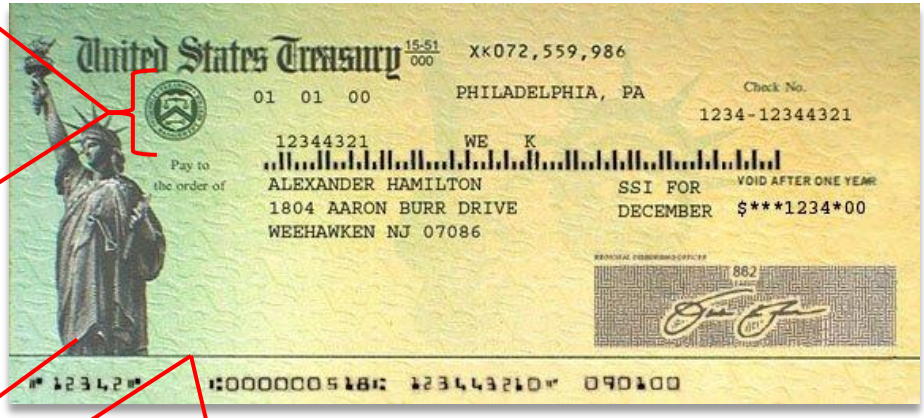
U.S. Treasury Check Security Features

Treasury Seal

The new seal, showing "Bureau of the Fiscal Service" has replaced the old one. The old seal, showing "Financial Management Service," will be seen in rotation until this check stock runs out.

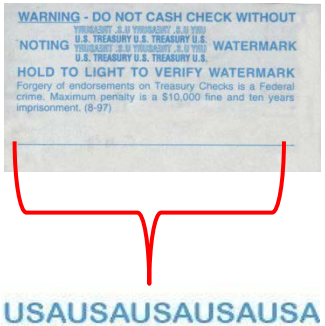
Bleeding Ink

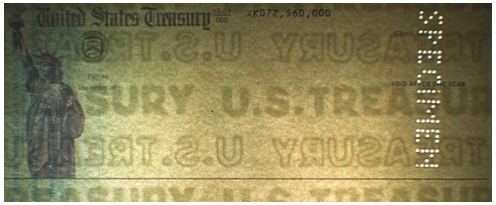
The Treasury seal, located to the right of the Statue of Liberty, contains security ink that will run and turn red when moisture is applied to the black ink of the seal.



Microprinting

Microprinted words are printed so small that they appear as a line to the naked eye. However, when magnified, they become visible. Microprinting cannot be duplicated by a copier and, when a check is counterfeited, they will often show up as a solid line or a series of dots. The U.S. Treasury check has three areas where microprinting is used.





Watermark

All U.S. Treasury checks are printed on watermarked paper. The watermark reads "U.S. TREASURY" and can be seen from both the front and back of the check when held up to a light. The watermark is light and cannot be reproduced by a copier. All U.S. Treasury checks have the watermark and any check not having the watermark should be suspected as being counterfeit or copied.

Ultraviolet Overprinting

There is a protective ultraviolet pattern, invisible to the naked eye, that consists of four lines of "FMS" bracketed by the FMS Seal on the left and the United States Seal (eagle) on the right. This pattern can usually be found under the payee information and amount area. The FMS pattern and seals can be detected under a black light. If the amount box is shaved or altered in any way, a space will be created in the ultraviolet area. When exposed to black light, the ink used in the pattern and the seal will glow. This fluorescent quality cannot be photocopied.

As of October 2013, a new ultraviolet pattern was introduced into the check stock that consists of four lines of "FISCALSERVICE" (see below). Also, the seal has been changed to read "Bureau of the Fiscal Service." Either one of these ultraviolet patterns may be seen until the prior check stock runs out.

You may verify check issue information at the Bureau of the Fiscal Service Treasury Check Verification Application (TCVA) at *https://tcva.fms.treas.gov*.

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