

Preparing for Canada's new **polymer** bank notes

What's new

Canada's new polymer notes will start circulating soon, beginning with a \$100 note in November 2011 and a \$50 note in March 2012. The \$20 note will be available in late 2012 and the \$10 and \$5 notes by late 2013. Polymer bank notes are printed on a smooth, durable film.

Benefits for you

Polymer notes are more secure, with leading-edge security features that are easy to check and hard to counterfeit. They're also very durable, lasting at least 2.5 times longer than cotton-paper notes and leaving a reduced impact on the environment.



How this affects you

Polymer notes are a significant improvement over cotton-paper notes but may require you to make some adjustments. Here are a few points to keep in mind as you get ready for this change.

Polymer notes have no ultraviolet (UV) light feature

The UV light feature that you may have become accustomed to using on paper-based notes has been replaced by the hidden numbers feature that offers you a flexible and inexpensive way of checking your money using a single-point light source.

Your cash-handling machines may not process polymer notes

Machines that count cash or accept cash payments (e.g., self-service kiosks) may need to be reconfigured or replaced if they are not compatible with the new polymer notes. Your equipment suppliers and manufacturers should be able to provide you with more information on the compatibility of your machines with Canada's new polymer notes.

Note: The Bank of Canada is offering equipment manufacturers and suppliers an opportunity to test the new notes on their machines before the notes are issued.

Polymer and paper notes should be separated

The Bank will work to remove paper notes from circulation as more denominations become available on polymer to minimize the amount of time that paper and polymer notes co-circulate. You can facilitate the removal of paper notes by:

- keeping polymer and paper notes separated in your tills (e.g., polymer notes on top and paper notes below in the same compartment);
- bundling polymer and paper notes separately in your bank deposit.

Visit www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes or call 1 888 513-8212 for more information.