[**cashier’s check**](https://www.marketwatch.com/guides/checking/what-is-a-cashiers-check/)

A [cashier’s check](https://www.marketwatch.com/guides/checking/what-is-a-cashiers-check/) is a form of payment issued and guaranteed by a bank or credit union rather than drawn from your personal account. When you purchase a cashier’s check, the bank deducts the amount from your account immediately and takes on the responsibility of paying the recipient.

That’s because unlike a personal check, which can bounce if there are insufficient funds in the issuer’s account, a cashier’s check is backed by the bank’s money. This ensures the recipient that the check is good and the funds are guaranteed.

**Your Own Bank or Credit Union**

Getting a cashier’s check from your own bank or credit union is typically the most straightforward option.

When you request a cashier’s check, you’ll need to provide the following:

* The exact amount of the check
* Name of the payee (the person or entity the check is made out to)
* Identification

The bank will deduct the amount from your account, add any applicable fees and issue the cashier’s check.

Fees for a cashier’s check can vary between banks and credit unions but generally average around $10. Some financial institutions may waive these fees for customers who have certain types of accounts, such as premium or high-balance checking accounts.

**At Other Banks**

Some banks may issue checks to non-customers for a fee, provided you pay in cash or with a debit card. Call the institution beforehand to see if it provides this service to non-customers.

The process for non-customers generally follows similar steps to those for bank customers, but keep the following in mind:

* **Higher fees:** A bank might charge you a higher fee compared to account holders.
* **More stringent requirements:** A bank may have more requirements you’ll need to meet to get a cashier’s check if you’re not a customer.
* **Limits on transactions:**A bank might limit the amount of money through a cashier’s check for non-customers.

**Online Cashier’s Check Services**

Some banks and credit unions — particularly [online-only institutions](https://www.marketwatch.com/guides/banking/best-online-banks/) — may offer a digital option but there are some things you’ll need to consider:

* **Online only:** You’ll need to request a cashier’s check through the bank’s website or app
* **Slower process:** The bank will mail a check to you or directly to the payee, so it could take several days.
* **Limited availability:** Most banks and credit unions require you to have an account with them to take advantage of their online services.

**Getting a Cashier’s Check Without a Bank Account**

If you don’t have a bank account, getting a cashier’s check can be more challenging. However, it’s not impossible.

Be prepared by doing the following to get a cashier’s check without a bank account:

* **Call ahead:** Check the bank’s policy on issuing cashier’s checks to non-account holders.
* **Bring the required funds:** Come with cash to cover the amount of the check.
* **Bring the required ID:**Since you don’t have an account with the bank, you may need more ID.
* **Pay a higher fee:** Since many banks consider it an additional risk or administrative burden to provide services to non-customers, the fees for non-customers may be higher.

**Cashier's Check Fees in US Banks: A Statistical Breakdown**

Cashier's checks offer a secure way to make payments but come with fees that can vary depending on your bank and account type. Here's a breakdown of the cost with US bank examples:

**Average Fee:**

* Generally, cashier's checks cost around **$10** in the US.

**Fee Variations:**

* This fee can range from **$5 to $15** depending on the bank.
* Some banks completely **waive the fee** for certain account holders, typically those with premium or high-balance checking accounts.

**Examples:**

* **U.S. Bank:** $10 for cashier's check, $5 for money order [Source: U.S. Bank]
* **Wells Fargo:** $10 base fee + $8 for online purchase shipping (total $18) [Source: Forbes Advisor]

**Tips to Minimize Fees:**

* **Check your bank's policy:** See if your current account offers free cashier's checks.
* **Consider online banks:** Some online banks, like Ally Bank and Discover, offer free cashier's checks.
* **Compare fees:** If you're not a customer at a particular bank, call and inquire about their cashier's check fees for non-customers before going in.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bank Name** | **Fee Amount (USD)** |
| Chase Bank | $8 |
| Bank of America | $15 |
| Wells Fargo | $10 |
| Citibank | $10 |
| U.S. Bank | $10 |
| PNC Bank | $10 |
| TD Bank | $8 |
| Capital One | $10 |
| HSBC | $12 |
| BB&T (now Truist) | $10 |
| SunTrust (now Truist) | $8 |
| Fifth Third Bank | $10 |
| KeyBank | $8 |
| Regions Bank | $8 |
| Huntington Bank | $6 |
| M&T Bank | $10 |
| Citizens Bank | $10 |
| BMO Harris Bank | $10 |
| Santander Bank | $10 |
| Ally Bank | $0 |
| Discover Bank | $0 |
| Navy Federal Credit Union | $0 |
| USAA | $0 |
| Charles Schwab Bank | $0 |
| American Express Bank | $0 |

**Banks Charging $0**: Ally Bank, Discover Bank, Navy Federal Credit Union, USAA, Charles Schwab Bank, American Express Bank.

**Banks Charging $8**: Chase Bank, TD Bank, SunTrust (now Truist), KeyBank, Regions Bank.

**Banks Charging $10**: Wells Fargo, Citibank, U.S. Bank, PNC Bank, Capital One, BB&T (now Truist), Fifth Third Bank, M&T Bank, Citizens Bank, BMO Harris Bank, Santander Bank.

**Banks Charging $12**: HSBC.

**Banks Charging $15**: Bank of America.