

## How to Cash Your Check



### I got my check...what now?

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There are many ways to cash a check, some more expensive than others. We recommend that you take this opportunity to open a bank account. There are banks that have free checking accounts.

- You can visit the bank of your choice in person. Often this is best if you have questions, or wish to open more than one account.
- It is possible to open a bank account online. One example is Bank of America, where the monthly account maintenance fees are waived if you open the account online. Visit [www.bankofamerica.com](http://www.bankofamerica.com) and click on 'checking' under products and services. Choose the first account option called 'My Access Checking', and continue. Whatever bank you choose, be sure to check online first to see if there are special offers for opening an account online.

#### **If you decide not to open a bank account, there are still other options!**

- Wal-Mart will cash your check for about \$3.00 which they deduct from your paycheck. All that you need is your paycheck, your social security number, and picture ID.
- It is possible to cash your check at the bank the check is from, even though you may not have an account there. However, you often have to have two forms of ID, they will charge you a small fee, and they are permitted to deny your check.
- Your last resort should be a check cashing business. Often these businesses charge up to 20 percent of your paycheck. We do not recommend going this route!