

# Your First State Bank of North Dakota Debit Card Knowledge is the Best Protection



**Debit cards are fast, easy and convenient to use, but you need to make sure you take precautions to protect your personal and financial information when you do.**

## **Debit Card Basics**

A debit card, sometimes called a “cash and check card,” looks just like a credit card. Using it is like paying with a credit card or a check, only you don’t have to take time to write a check. When you use your First State Bank of North Dakota debit card to make a purchase, you’ll swipe your card through a reader, then sign to confirm your transaction. The amounts of the purchases will be deducted directly from your checking account. You can also use your card to get cash at ATMs by entering your personal identification number (PIN).

## **Debit Card Advantages**

**Convenient** – A debit card will fit right in your pocket, wallet or purse. Rather than handling dollars and coins, a checkbook or traveler’s checks, you just swipe your card.

**Fast** – Since you swipe your debit card through a reader and confirm the transaction with a signature, it’s faster and easier than counting out cash or writing a check.

**Safer Than Cash** – If you lose your debit card and report it immediately, you will limit your liability. If you lose cash, it’s gone.

**Pay As You Go** – With a debit card, purchase amounts are deducted directly from your checking account. With a credit card, you’re borrowing money from the card issuer. If you don’t pay your full balance at the end of the month, the issuer will charge you interest on the remaining balance, and the interest rates are usually quite high.

**Traveling Ease** – In general, debit cards are more readily accepted than checks when you’re away from home.

**Unusual Activity Tracking** – First State Bank of North Dakota tracks your debit card activity and trends. If our card issuer notices an unusual transaction, an attempt will be made to notify you immediately.

## **Be Aware**

**It’s Your Money** – Someone who gets your card or your card number and PIN could clean out your account before you even know it’s happening. With a credit card, they’re stealing someone else’s money; with a debit card, the loss is all yours.

**Overdraft and Other Fees** – You need to make sure you have enough money in your checking account to cover each purchase. While most debit systems

will only allow you to make purchases under or equal to your account balance, some will allow you to go over. If you do, you will likely need to pay an overdraft fee.

**Daily Dollar Limits** – Every First State Bank of North Dakota checking account carries a daily limit for the amount you can spend or withdraw from a cash machine with your debit card. Limits vary depending on the customer and account type. To find out how much your daily limits are, contact your local bank.

## How to Protect Yourself

**Be Quick** – If you notice your card is missing, or if you notice a purchase on your statement that you didn't authorize, report it to First State Bank of North Dakota immediately.

**Know Your Daily and Minimum Balances** – Keep track of what you have in your account so you know how much you can spend without incurring overdraft charges or other fees.

**Be Smart** – We recommend that you not use your debit card for purchases on the Internet. Credit cards carry more protection for online purchases, and it will be easier to solve a dispute if one arises.

**Keep Track of Your Card** – Make sure you know where your card is at all times. Remember, a thief only needs your card number and PIN to steal your money.

**Create a Strong PIN** – Make your PIN something that will be difficult to figure out. Avoid using birthdates, anniversaries, digits of your phone number or your Social Security number.

**Memorize Your PIN** – Don't ever carry your PIN with you, and never reveal it to anyone.

**Keep Receipts** – Check your debit card purchases against your monthly bank statement.

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## More Information

### AARP

#### Understanding Debit Cards

[www.aarp.org/money/personal/articles/managingmoneydebitcards.html](http://www.aarp.org/money/personal/articles/managingmoneydebitcards.html)

### Better Business Bureau

#### Don't Get Taken to the Bank - Protect Your ATM and Debit Cards

[www.bbb.org/alerts/article.asp?ID=307](http://www.bbb.org/alerts/article.asp?ID=307)

### Home Living Answers

#### Debit Card or ATM Card Identity Theft

[www.homelivinganswers.com/identity-theft/debit-card-identity-theft.html](http://www.homelivinganswers.com/identity-theft/debit-card-identity-theft.html)

### PULSE® ATM/Debit Network

[www.debitfacts.org](http://www.debitfacts.org)



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(701) 967-8914

**Buffalo**  
(701) 633-5106

**Casselton**  
(701) 347-4540

**LaMoure**  
(701) 883-5321

**Marion**  
(701) 669-2293

**Oakes**  
(701) 742-2694

