

IT'S COMING - NEW FAMILY OF EC NOTES

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) will put EC polymer banknotes in circulation in 2019 commencing with the new \$50 in June, followed by the \$100, \$20 and \$10 in August/September. The \$5 is expected to be issued in August/September 2020.

The polymer notes and current paper notes will co-circulate. That is, you will be able to use and will receive both paper and polymer notes for your business transactions.

WHY POLYMER EC NOTES

Polymer banknotes are produced from a thin, transparent and flexible plastic film made from a versatile and complex plastic material.

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) decided to change the material on which the EC banknotes are printed from paper to polymer because polymer banknotes are:



CLEANER

Polymer banknotes are resistant to dirt, moisture, water and other liquids, which makes them more hygienic



SAFER

Polymer banknotes allow for the incorporation of advanced security features thus making them difficult to counterfeit



STRONGER

Polymer is stronger and more durable than paper. Polymer banknotes last approximately three times longer than paper banknotes.

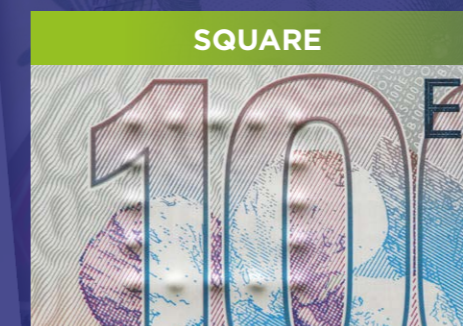
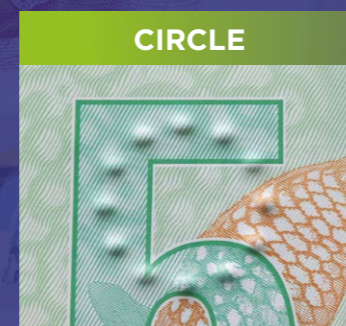
WHAT CAN YOU LOOK FOR IN YOUR EC POLYMER NOTES



- **Portrait Orientation** – the notes are designed with a portrait orientation. The current paper banknotes are landscape oriented.
- **Upgraded Images and Landmarks** – the images and landmarks at the back of the banknotes remain the same but have been enhanced.
- **Unique Tactile Feature** – each note will bear a unique tactile feature (raised bumps) specifically designed to assist the blind and visually impaired individuals with identifying the denomination of each note. These raised bumps form familiar shapes (see below).
- **Holographic Foil Strip** – this anti-counterfeiting feature is on the \$20, \$50 and \$100, which are most susceptible to counterfeiting.
- **New Image on \$50** – the \$50 now depicts an image of the former Governor of the ECCB, the late Honourable Sir K Dwight Venner in honour of his legacy and service to the Bank.
- **New Signature** – the banknotes bear the signature of Governor Timothy N. J. Antoine.



Unique Tactile Feature - To help the blind and visually impaired identify each note.



HOW TO DETECT GENUINE EC POLYMER NOTES

FEEL



Polymer feels smoother than the material from which the paper banknotes are made.

There are raised bumps which form a specific shape at the top left-hand corner of each note.

LOOK



A clear window at the front and back of notes which allows you to see through the notes.

TILT



Holographic foil strip on the \$100, \$50 and \$20. The images move and their colours changes when you tilt the notes.

Counterfeit EC notes do not have any value. Remember, it is a criminal offence to be in possession of counterfeit EC Notes.

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT EC POLYMER NOTES

DESIGN

Will the design on the notes fade over time?

Like everything else, the banknotes will not last forever; they will become unfit for circulation through wear and tear over time.

Are the notes the same size as the paper notes?

The polymer banknotes are the same size as the paper banknotes.

Will notes cling to each other?

New notes may cling together at the edges where they have been cut. You are advised to tap or shuffle brand new banknotes before counting.

Why was the portrait of the Queen maintained on the polymer notes?

The Queen is the Head of State of all Commonwealth countries. All the ECCB member countries are members of the Commonwealth.

Why not use braille instead of shapes as the tactile feature?

The ECCB recognises that only few individuals who are blind and visually impaired can read braille. Hence the use of common shapes that can be easily recognised by all.

Will the tactile features/bumps flatten over time?

The tactile feature will not flatten in polymer.

CIRCULATION

When will the paper notes be removed from circulation?

Paper banknotes will be withdrawn from circulation over a period of not less than five (5) years after the issue of the \$5 polymer note in 2020.

Will ATMs dispense both paper and polymer notes?

This will depend on each commercial bank's internal operations. However the ATMs can be recalibrated to dispense both paper and polymer banknotes.

Will payment kiosks be able to accept the notes?

Payment kiosks will be able to accept polymer banknotes.

HANDLING

Would the polymer notes be destroyed/damaged if they are tumbled in a washing machine or dryer accidentally?

While polymer banknotes have been tested and proven to withstand various rigorous conditions you are advised to avoid putting the notes in washing machines or dryers.

Would the notes be damaged if ironed?

Polymer banknotes have been tested to withstand temperatures of up to 140o C. However, they can be damaged if left exposed to direct heat and hot temperatures for an extended period of time.

Will notes have to be kept flat at all times?

The notes can be folded or bent as in wallets, pockets, purses and money-clips. Avoid crumpling or giving the notes acute creases. The lines formed from these creases and crumples can become permanent and make the banknotes unfit for circulation.

Can rubber bands be used to hold notes together?

Rubber bands can be used to hold the notes together.

Will folds in the notes affect their use in ATMs and other machines?

Over time, folds in the polymer banknotes can affect their use in ATMs and other cash machines.

EC POLYMER NOTES



CLEANER | SAFER | STRONGER

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EC POLYMER NOTES



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