

Combating Check Washing Fraud

What is Check Washing?

- Check Washing is the process of using common household chemicals to remove the ink on stolen checks. The checks are commonly stolen from a residential mailbox and then re-written and made payable to the thief for a larger sum of money. Then the checks are cashed. This entire cycle happens very quickly, usually within the course of a few hours.

What are some ways you can make yourself less vulnerable to Check Washing?

- Avoid leaving mail in your mailbox to be picked up. Instead, take it to work, hand it to your mail carrier or take it directly to the post office or a postal drop box.
- Review your bank statement as soon as you receive it to verify the accurateness of the checks that were cashed against your account.
- ****Most Importantly**** Use black ink and use gel style pens rather than ball-point pens when writing checks. The gel ink is much more “counterfeit proof,” as it is nearly impossible to erase using chemicals.

For additional information or questions call your local branch or Parsons at 620-421-1000.