Do you know the security features of euro banknotes? This guide tells you all about them. It provides an overview of the most important security features on each of the euro banknotes – from €5 up to €500. To check a banknote, you only need to refer to the relevant page.

Most, but not all, of the security features on each of the seven banknotes are the same. The differences are described on pages 18 and 19.

Some useful tips on what to do if someone tries to pay with a suspect banknote are given on page 23.

Remember: always check several security features. If in doubt, compare the banknote with one that you know is genuine.

Further information on euro banknotes and coins can be obtained from the European Central Bank or from your national central bank. You can find contact details on pages 20 and 21 of this guide.
SECURITY FEATURES

Euro banknotes include some high-tech security features. Always check several features. If in doubt, compare the banknote with one you know to be genuine.

RAISED PRINTING
Intaglio or raised printing produces a tactile effect which is used in the main image and in some other parts on the front of the banknote.

FEEL OF THE BANKNOTE
The banknote paper consists of pure cotton, which should feel crisp and firm (not limp or waxy).

WATERMARK
The watermark is produced by varying the thickness of the paper. It can be seen by holding the banknote against the light. The transitions between the light and dark parts of the image are smooth.

Put the banknote on a dark surface and the light areas become darker. This effect is very easy to see in the value watermark.

SECURITY THREAD
The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“5”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.

UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT, CHECK IF
- The paper itself does not glow.
- Fibres embedded in the paper appear, coloured red, blue and green.
- On the front, the flag of the European Union looks green and has orange stars. The signature of the ECB President turns green. The large stars and the small circles in the centre glow.
- On the back, the map, bridge and value numeral appear in yellow or green.

HOLOGRAM STRIPE
Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and the € symbol on a rainbow-coloured background. At the edges, tiny letters show the value.

GLOSSY STRIPE
Tilt the banknote – a gold-coloured stripe will appear on the back of the banknote. It shows the value and the € symbol.
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SECURITY THREAD
The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“10”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.

WATERMARK
The watermark is produced by varying the thickness of the paper. It can be seen by holding the banknote against the light. The transitions between the light and dark parts of the image are smooth.

Hologram Stripe
Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and the € symbol on a rainbow-coloured background. At the edges, tiny letters show the value.

Glossy Stripe
Tilt the banknote – a gold-coloured stripe will appear on the back of the banknote. It shows the value and the € symbol.

UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT, CHECK IF
- The paper itself does not glow.
- Fibres embedded in the paper appear, coloured red, blue and green.
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SECURITY THREAD
The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“20”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.

WATERMARK
The watermark is produced by varying the thickness of the paper. It can be seen by holding the banknote against the light. The transitions between the light and dark parts of the image are smooth.

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Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and the € symbol on a rainbow-coloured background. At the edges, tiny letters show the value.

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SECURITY FEATURES
Euro banknotes include some high-tech security features. Always check several features. If in doubt, compare the banknote with one you know to be genuine.

Hologram patch
Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and a window or doorway. In the background, you can see rainbow-coloured concentric circles of tiny letters moving from the centre to the edges of the patch.

Colour-changing number
Tilt the banknote. On the back, the value numeral will change colour from purple to olive green or brown.

Under ultraviolet light, check if
- The paper itself does not glow.
- Fibres embedded in the paper appear, coloured red, blue and green.
- On the front, the flag of the European Union looks green and has orange stars. The signature of the ECB President turns green. The large stars and the small circles in the centre glow.
- On the back, the map, bridge and value numeral appear in yellow or green.

Watermark
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SECURITY THREAD
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HOLOGRAM PATCH
Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and a window or doorway. In the background, you can see rainbow-coloured concentric circles of tiny letters moving from the centre to the edges of the patch.

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COLOUR-CHANGING NUMBER
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SECURITY THREAD
The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“200”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.

WATERMARK
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COLOUR-CHANGING NUMBER
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HOLOGRAM PATCH
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UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT, CHECK IF
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**HOLOGRAM PATCH**
Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and a window or doorway. In the background, you can see rainbow-coloured concentric circles of tiny letters moving from the centre to the edges of the patch.

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Differences between low and high denominations

Low Denominations
€5, €10, and €20

- There is a hologram stripe on the front...
- ...and a glossy stripe on the back.

High Denominations
€50, €100, €200, and €500

- There is a hologram patch on the front...
- ...and a colour-changing number on the back.

Low Denominations

- €5, €10, and €20

High Denominations

- €50, €100, €200, and €500
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK</strong></th>
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<th><strong>LIETUVOS BANKAS</strong></th>
<th><strong>BANCO DE PORTUGAL</strong></th>
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<td>Tel.: +370 5 268 00 29</td>
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<td><strong>MAGYAR NEMZETI BANK</strong></td>
<td><strong>BANKA SLOVENIJE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NÁRODNÁ BANKA SLOVENSKA</strong></td>
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<td>Tel.: +420 800 160 170,</td>
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<td>+420 224 413 585</td>
<td>Tél.: +33 1 42 92 42 92</td>
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<td><strong>DANMARKS NATIONALBANK</strong></td>
<td><strong>BANCA D’ITALIA</strong></td>
<td><strong>BANK ČENTRALI TA’ MALTA / CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA</strong></td>
<td><strong>SUOMEN PANKKI – FINLANDS BANK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:info@nationalbanken.dk">info@nationalbanken.dk</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:CSU@centralbankmalta.com">CSU@centralbankmalta.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>DEUTSCHE BUNDESBank</strong></td>
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<td>@bundesbank.de</td>
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</table>
Ideally, before this happens, you should ask your supervisor about the company’s policy on counterfeits. However, if you are handed a suspect banknote, here are some tips on how to react:

- Do not get into an argument with the customer;
- Tell him/her that you need to speak briefly to your supervisor or a security officer, but ensure that the customer can always see the banknote, in order to avoid any complaints;
- Get your supervisor or the security officer to speak to the customer;
- Make a mental note of the customer’s appearance;
- If at all possible, do not return the banknote to the customer;
- If he or she leaves by car, make a note of his/her number plate and the car;
- Contact the police;
- Hand over the suspect banknote without delay to your supervisor or security officer for forwarding to the police;
- Do not try to be a hero – make sure you are safe at all times.

Since counterfeit banknotes are completely worthless, be vigilant.

It is a criminal offence to pass on a banknote which you believe or know is a counterfeit.

For more information on what to do in your country, please refer to your national central bank. You can find contact details on pages 20 and 21 of this guide.