



Royal Bahamas Police Force

Working together for a safer Bahamas

*Police Emergency
919*

Using your ATM Safely

More and more, we are becoming accustomed to using ATM Machines. They are readily available, easy to use, and can be a real time saver as we pursue busy, active lives of work and play. Not only are they available near banks and lending institutions, but we can find an ATM in some grocery stores, and retail outlets. Of course, gambling casinos are a favorite location! However, ATM machines can put you at risk of becoming a victim of robbery or some other crimes. The following are some hints which could prevent that from happening to you or your family. Certainly, during the Holiday Season, there may be some increase in ATM crimes; nevertheless it is a year-round problem.

The most important key to using your ATM card safely is to be observant and look around for any suspicious persons or activity near the ATM machine. If you see anything that looks suspicious, go to another machine or return later.

1. Have Your Card in Your Hand

It is a good idea to have your ATM card in your hand and ready to use as you approach the ATM machine. By doing this, you do not have to take extra time at the machine to take the card out of your wallet or purse.

2. Shield Your Transaction

Use your body or hand or an object to shield the ATM keyboard when you enter your PIN. Do not give someone else the opportunity to see the number that you are entering.

3. Don't Leave Your Receipt

Be sure to take your receipt or transaction records with you when you leave.

4. Put Away Your Cash

Put your cash away immediately in your pocket, wallet or purse. Do not display or count it at the machine. You can always count it later.

5. Keep Your Car Secured

Lock your car if you have to get out to use the ATM machine. If you use a drive-up ATM machine, lock all doors and be sure the passenger-side windows are rolled up.

6. Using an ATM at Night

- If possible, take another person with you.
- Park in a well-lighted area as close to the machine as possible.
- Do not use the machine if the lights on it are not working.
- If the view of the ATM machine is blocked by overgrown shrubbery or trees, or other objects, use another machine. Notify the bank about the visibility problem

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National Crime Prevention Office

302-8430/1

www.royalbahamaspolice.org

Crime Stoppers

328-TIPS (8477)

Family Islands

(242) 300-TIPS (8477)

"To make The Bahamas a safer place to live, work, visit and play."