

## Checking Account Cost Avoidance Chart

What does a checking account cost?	How to avoid the cost
<p><b>1. Monthly service fee</b> - covers the bank's administrative costs</p>	<p><b>1. Monthly service fee</b> Many banking institutions don't have this fee. If there is a fee, keep enough money in the account to meet the minimum or average balance requirement. (You can usually combine the money in your checking and savings accounts to calculate the balance.)</p>
<p><b>2. Check writing</b> - a fee for each check you write over a preset amount of free checks</p>	<p><b>2. Check writing</b> If there's a fee for this, you can avoid writing more checks than the limit of free checks...or you can use your debit card for purchases</p>
<p><b>3. Customer service calls</b> - a fee for each call over a pre-set limit</p>	<p><b>3. Customer service calls</b> If there's a fee for this, try to keep your calls within the free limit or ask that it be waived.</p>
<p><b>4. Check printing</b> - the fee for providing you with personal checks (with your name and address)</p>	<p><b>4. Check printing</b> This fee may be waived, even for reprint orders.</p>
<p><b>5. Bounced checks</b> - a fee for writing a check without enough money in your account</p>	<p><b>5. Bounced checks</b> These fees are high. Keep track of how much money you have and avoid writing checks when you don't have enough money in your account to pay for them.</p>
<p><b>6. Cancelled checks with statement</b> - a fee for returning the paid checks to you with your statement</p>	<p><b>6. Cancelled checks with statement</b> You may not receive the original checks. If you get into a dispute where you need the original as proof of payment, you can ask for a copy of the check.</p>
<p><b>7. Duplicate statement</b> - a fee for sending you another copy of your statement</p>	<p><b>7. Duplicate statement</b> Keep your statements in a safe, organized place so that you don't lose them.</p>
<p><b>8. Use of an ATM not owned by your bank</b> - a fee charged by the owner of the ATM for its use; your bank may also charge a fee for that use</p>	<p><b>8. Use of other ATMs</b> Select a service with ATMs that are close to your work and home so that you don't have to use ATMs from other banks. Many stores will also let you make a cash withdrawal in addition to your purchase when you use your ATM/debit card—usually without a fee for getting the extra cash.</p>