



Should I use Blank Check Stock or Preprinted Check Stock?

Learn the risks & benefits of both options



What is Blank Check Stock?

Blank stock comes completely blank and all the check's variable data, static data, and MICR line are printed at the time of issuance. This is far more secure than the alternative of preprinted stock which arrives with banking details already on it. **Implementing blank check stock into your check printing process is the first step in reducing your organizations risk of check fraud.** It is the most fundamental and cost-saving way for an organization to reduce the risk of fraud, while also increasing the efficiency of your check printing workflow.

Fraud is still a pervasive and costly problem for many organizations. **According to an AFP survey, in 2019 81% of organizations reported being the victims of fraud.¹ Of these organizations, 74% reported that checks were the form of payment most targeted.²** This is an increase from previous years, and that shouldn't be surprising – checks are still the number one form of payment for many organizations. This is an indication that check fraud is not only on the rise, but is also not stopping anytime soon. And, in times of chaos and change, like we're currently experiencing with COVID, fraud increases.

This is What the Fraudsters Want



PREPRINTED STOCK

YOUR COMPANY NAME 1001
YOUR COMPANY ADDRESS

PAY TO THE ORDER OF _____ \$ _____
DOLLARS

MEMO _____ AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

With Blank Stock, They Can't Get it



BLANK STOCK

The Risks of Using Preprinted Check Stock

When organizations use preprinted check stock, they are putting themselves at risk for fraud. By having the bank routing and account number already printed, **this stock is a high-value target**. Preprinted check stock exposes businesses to the following fraudulent activities:

Theft

Forged signatures

Alteration

Counterfeiting

Check duplication

However, the problem isn't just the risk of fraud, preprinted check stock introduces **inefficiencies into the everyday workflow, including:**

- **Storage Risks**

Preprinted stock needs to be stored separately in a secure place. For instance, a bank vault or safe.

- **Logging & Auditing**

As preprinted stock is distributed to employees or tellers, a log must be kept. The logging and auditing of preprinted stock is time consuming for all employees.

- **Wasted Time**

When a check is issued to a customer, the data is typically printed on the check using a non secure printer. In a retail bank setting, this whole process can take 7-15 minutes per transaction when preprinted stock is used. In an office, think about how much time your staff is taking to print, stuff, seal, and mail by hand.

- **Expensive**

Preprinted stock costs approx. \$0.15 per check, and for every \$100 spent a company loses \$15 due to paper waste. Not to mention the extra costs and time required to store and distribute preprinted stock.



Simply put, preprinted check stock is a risky, expensive, and an inefficient part of any organization's check printing workflow.

The Benefits of Using Blank Check Stock

Some organizations might claim that using blank check stock is riskier and creates a higher chance of fraud, no matter the amount of security features. But that couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, blank check stock has many **benefits that not only increase the security, but also the efficiency of your organization's check printing process.**

- **No More Duplicate Checks**

Since blank stock is not numbered until issued, the risk of duplicate checks when paper jams occur is eliminated.

- **Simple Storage, No Security Needed**

Blank check stock contains no data until printed, meaning that it doesn't need to be stored securely. The theft risk is eliminated. Instead, it can be stored in spaces with other everyday office supplies.

- **No More Logging & Auditing**

Logging and auditing of stock is eliminated, reducing labor hours. This allows employees to focus on more important tasks.

- **No More Chain of Custody Protocols**

Because blank stock doesn't need to be secured and logged, it eliminates the need for extensive and exhausting chain of custody protocols.

- **Cost Effective**

Blank stock costs approx. \$0.08 per check, an approximate 50% reduction in total costs.

Blank check stock isn't only a more secure option for reducing fraud, **it is also a way for organizations to improve efficiency and reduce costs.** Organizations no longer need to worry about the financial and labor costs associated with buying, storing, distributing, and tracking preprinted stock.



Simply put, blank check stock is a safer, cheaper, and a more efficient part of any organization's check printing workflow.

Blank Check Stock is Only Part of the Solution

Blank check stock is only one part of having a more secure check printing process. To start, you'll need a MICR printer that prints the MICR line in the precise location to pass bank clearing. This works in tandem with blank check stock to allow you to print the whole check in one pass. By pairing a MICR printer with blank check stock, you'll be able to print the variable data, static data, and the MICR line in seconds.

To further increase the security of your printed checks, you'll need MICR toner. We recommend a MICR toner that includes security features to protect the check from fraud, such as check washing and scraping. Simply using blank check stock with a printer doesn't supply your organization with the tools needed to protect against fraud.



MICR Printers

Give you precise MICR line placement for bank clearing



Blank Check Stock

Works with the MICR printer to enable one pass printing



MICR Toner

With security features that prevent check fraud

- ✓ Combat Check Fraud
- ✓ Simple & Secure
- ✓ Save Money
- ✓ Reputation Protection
- ✓ Improved Efficiency
- ✓ Cut Financial Costs
- ✓ Cut Labor Costs

The Choice is Clear

With check fraud being one of the highest forms of fraud, it is very important to have strong security measures in place.³ Not only will you be saving money, but you also protect your reputation and keep customers' confidence high.

Utilizing blank check stock in your workflow is a simple solution for protecting your organization against check fraud. It also includes the added benefit of improving efficiency overall. Using blank stock in your check printing process cuts down on financial and labor costs and further increases security.





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About us

TROY Group, Inc. is a globally recognized leader in MICR solutions and security printing. As the only HP OEM Partner for MICR, TROY is the only company in the world authorized to enhance HP printers and consumables for use in secure printing workflows. TROY manufactures patented MICR toner & inks to the tightest quality and environmental tolerances. TROY offers a total check printing solution including MICR printers, MICR toner, software, security check stock, digital signatures, security fonts and post-sale services.



¹ <https://www.jpmorgan.com/commercial-banking/insights/afp-fraud-survey-2020>

² <https://www.jpmorgan.com/content/dam/jpm/commercial-banking/documents/fraud-protection/afp-fraud-survey-2020-report-highlights.pdf>

³ <https://acfepublic.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/2020-Report-to-the-Nations.pdf>