



BANK OF ENGLAND

Polymer banknotes

Getting your business ready

The next £5, £10 and £20 banknotes will be printed on polymer, a thin and flexible plastic material. Polymer notes are cleaner, more secure and more durable than paper notes. The new notes will be smaller than the current paper notes.

The new £5 note

The new polymer £5 note will be issued in September 2016. It will feature Sir Winston Churchill and will be 125mm x 65mm. The full design and security features will be unveiled around three months before the issue date. *The current paper £5 note, featuring Elizabeth Fry, is 135mm x 70mm.*



The new £10 note

The new polymer £10 note will be issued in the second half of 2017. It will feature Jane Austen and will be 132mm x 69mm. *The current paper £10 note, featuring Charles Darwin, is 142mm x 75mm.*



Timeline

2016	<p>Businesses adapt machines for the polymer £5 note</p> <p>Full design and security features unveiled around three months before the issue date</p> <p>Businesses train staff to recognise and authenticate the new £5 notes</p> <p>New polymer £5 note issued in September</p> <p><i>New polymer £5 notes issued by the three Scottish issuing banks: Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale, RBS</i></p>
2017	<p><i>New £1 coin issued by the Royal Mint</i></p> <p>Businesses adapt machines for the polymer £10 note</p> <p>Withdrawal of paper £5 note from circulation before introduction of the new polymer £10 note</p> <p>New polymer £10 note issued in the second half of the year</p>
By 2020	<p>Withdrawal of paper £10 note from circulation before new polymer £20 note is issued</p>



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As with any change in banknote design, all businesses that handle cash need to plan and prepare for the introduction of the new notes. Over 30 countries currently use polymer banknotes, including Australia, Canada and Mexico.

Checklist

- ✓ Ensure you know which cash handling machines are being operated by your business. These machines include self-service check-outs, desktop counters, ATMs, ticket machines, and any other machine that weighs, counts, sorts, accepts, dispenses or recycles banknotes.
- ✓ Contact the supplier of your machines to discuss what adaptations will be required, and when they will be available. For most machines, a software update will be needed.
- ✓ Implement adaptations to your machines before September, when the new £5 will be issued.
- ✓ Plan for delivery of staff training. The full design and security features will be unveiled around three months before the issue date, and a range of materials to support staff training will be available.
- ✓ Keep up to date with the latest information about polymer banknotes, and other banknote news, by registering at: www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/Pages/subscribe.

More information about polymer banknotes can be found on our website:
www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/polymer

If you have any questions, please email: enquiries@bankofengland.co.uk



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