

What is EMV and What Does it Mean to You

When it comes to debit card protection, you can never be too safe. With new chip-enabled technology, your debit card information will be more secure from fraudulent activity than ever before, and it will be accepted in more locations worldwide. Chip cards provide added security against counterfeit fraud when used at chip-enabled terminals. The chip also helps you use your card internationally, where chip technology is already in place.

EMV (also referred to as chip cards) is an acronym that stands for Europay, MasterCard®, and Visa®. EMV is a payment application that resides in a computer chip embedded in a credit or debit card. The application specifications define a set of requirements that ensure compatibility between chip cards and card terminals. The founding companies, Europay, MasterCard®, and Visa®, developed chip technology to help improve security and fight fraud.

EMV has been widely used in Europe for many years and U.S. card issuers are now taking steps to make EMV the standard payment application for enhanced card security. The adoption of EMV will require financial institutions, payment networks, card issuers, payment processors, and businesses to make substantial changes to card issuing, transaction authorization, and related processes as well as point-of-sale and/or ATM equipment.

Frequently Asked Questions about Chip Cards

Why does my Itasca Bank & Trust Co. debit card now include a chip?

As chip technology will soon become the security standard in the U.S., many merchants are beginning to accept chip cards and we want you to be ready. You'll enjoy greater security when making purchases at a chip-enabled terminal since the chip provides better protection against counterfeit fraud. Chip technology is already used in over 130 countries around the world, including Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom, so you'll enjoy greater acceptance when traveling internationally.

What is a chip card?

A chip card is a standard-size plastic debit or credit card that contains an embedded microchip as well as the traditional magnetic stripe. The chip encrypts information to increase data security when making transactions at a chip-enabled terminal.

When will I receive a new Itasca Bank & Trust Co. debit card with chip technology?

Itasca Bank & Trust Co. debit cards are now available with an EMV chip on the front of the card as well as the traditional magnetic stripe on the back. Itasca Bank & Trust Co. has begun to replace all of its personal and business debit cards with chip cards and will continue to replace expired debit cards with chip technology cards over the next eighteen months. To request a new personal or business debit chip card now, or to request a chip card to replace your existing personal or business debit card, please contact your Customer Service Representative at 1-630-773-0350.

What is a smart card or an EMV card?

You may hear chip cards referred to as “smart cards” or “EMV cards” – they’re all different ways of referring to the same type of card. Similarly, an EMV terminal is the same as a chip-enabled terminal.

Where can I use my chip card?

Many merchants, across the U.S. are beginning to accept chip card transactions and this will continue to grow within the coming years. Chip technology is already used in over 130 countries around the world, including Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom, so you’ll enjoy greater acceptance when traveling internationally. Your chip card will still work at terminals where only magnetic stripe transactions are accepted.

Are chip cards secure?

Yes. Chip technology has been around for over two decades and is already the security standard in many countries around the world. When purchases are made using the chip feature, the transaction is more secure because of a unique process that is used to determine if the card is authentic. This makes the card more difficult to counterfeit or copy.

While magnetic stripe cards are still considered secure, chip technology is the next step to providing enhanced security to our customers. Whether you use the magnetic stripe or the chip to make your purchase, you can have confidence in the protection and security features we provide for all credit and debit card accounts.

Remember, if you notice any suspicious activity on your account, notify us immediately by calling the number on the back of your card.

Will chip cards prevent third-party data breaches?

Chip card technology provides an additional layer of security to help reduce certain types of fraud resulting from data breaches; however, it will not prevent a data breach.

Will chip cards prevent all fraud from happening?

No. As the industry continues to develop new ways to protect consumers, perpetrators continue to look for new ways to commit fraud. Chip cards provide an additional layer of security at chip-enabled terminals, on top of the fraud prevention monitoring we currently provide. As always, your purchases are also covered by Visa® liability protection.

Will chip cards allow others to track my location?

No. Chip card technology is not a locator system. The chip on your card is limited to supporting authentication of card data when you make a purchase.

Is a chip card the same as contactless payment (for example, PayPass, PayWave)?

No. Contactless cards employ near-field communication technology (NFC), which has a radio antenna that transmits account information, and work by waving or tapping your card in front of a device. Chip cards must be inserted face-up into a chip-enabled merchant terminal that allows the chip to make contact with the reader to authorize and complete a transaction. (Remember to keep your card inserted into the terminal while the transaction is processed.)

Is my card considered “chip and signature” or “chip and PIN”?

Both “chip and signature” and “chip and PIN” refer to the way a card is authenticated at the terminal. Your card will be authenticated using chip and signature. Chip and signature offers the same cryptographic security as chip and PIN.

While most of the banks in Europe chose chip and PIN authentication, the US market has leaned toward chip and signature in an effort to ease transition by maintaining the current experience of signing receipts. We expect our customers will also appreciate not having to remember a separate PIN in order to complete their transaction. The terminal recognizes that the card is chip and signature and won't prompt for a PIN, even if it's used in Europe.

Using chip debit cards

How does a chip credit card work?

It's easy. If the retailer has a chip-enabled terminal, simply insert your chip card face up in the terminal. The chip card will remain in the terminal while the transaction is processed. To authorize your transaction, just follow the prompts on the terminal as you do today.

You'll be prompted for a signature to complete the purchase. When traveling internationally, on rare occasions, you may be asked to provide a PIN. Just communicate to the merchant that the credit card requires a signature only. Your card is available to be removed from the terminal once the transaction is completed.

If the retailer is not equipped to read the chip card, just swipe as you do today. For transactions made over the phone or online, nothing changes.

Are there any situations where I could experience issues using my chip debit card?

When traveling outside the U.S., some card readers at unattended terminals (such as public transportation kiosks, gas pumps) will require a PIN. However, this type of PIN technology is different than what you normally use for PIN transactions in the U.S and the card won't be accepted. In these situations, please locate an attended terminal to complete your transaction or plan for an alternative payment method, such as local currency.

Will my chip debit card still work at an ATM?

Yes. You can continue to use your card as you do today by following the instructions at an ATM.

Are there any additional fees associated with chip debit cards?

At this time Itasca Bank & Trust Co. does not plan to charge customers for a chip card. If you request expedited replacement of your current card, we may charge a fee for faster delivery.

If I am traveling outside of the U.S. before the chip card is available, can I still use my current card?

Yes, subject to our fraud monitoring and ATM limits, you may continue to use your magnetic stripe card outside the U.S. Please notify us in advance of traveling abroad to better ensure your legitimate foreign transactions are not declined. Magnetic stripe-only cards are still accepted outside the U.S. though some “unattended” kiosks (parking meters, gas station pumps) may take only chip cards. For foreign travel, we recommend that you consider having another method of payment available just in case.