

MASTER YOUR CARD

A public education campaign brought to you by 

**GET THE
POWER
OF CARDS
WITHOUT
A BANK OR
CREDIT**



Prepaid cards are everywhere these days. You may be receiving your Social Security or state benefits on a prepaid card, or maybe you've seen prepaid cards sold at your local shop. If you're still working, you may even have the option of getting your paycheck on a prepaid payroll card. More people are using prepaid cards because of their safety, convenience and buying power. You can get all of these even if you don't have a bank account or credit.

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF CARDS—CHOOSE THE RIGHT ONE FOR YOU:

1. Commercial Prepaid Cards

A prepaid card is preloaded with money by you or someone else and can be used just like a debit or credit card. This means you can use your card like cash for bill-paying and shopping in stores, online, over the phone or through the mail. A good prepaid card protects you from having to pay for fraudulent charges, and you'll get your money back if your card is lost or stolen. All MasterCard prepaid cards come with this protection.



2. Prepaid Benefits Cards (Direct Express®)

Prepaid benefits cards are just like the cards you would buy in the store, except they are provided free by the government. Federal and state governments are making benefits and tax-refund payments on prepaid cards so you can access your benefits payments immediately without having to wait for your check to arrive in the mail. With prepaid benefits cards, you can transfer money to another card or account, make purchases, and get cash back with purchases at no charge.



3. Prepaid Payroll Cards

Prepaid payroll cards are great for employees without a bank account. Prepaid payroll cards mean you won't have to wait in line to cash your paycheck, purchase money orders or pay bills. If you pay to cash checks and get money orders, a prepaid payroll card can save you between \$10 and \$70 per month in fees—plus, you have the convenience, safety and buying power of a card when you use it instead of cash.

ALL THESE CARDS WORK TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

The power of prepaid cards is affordable to everyone because merchants pay a small fee on every sale for the convenience of making a card payment with you. Card payments give merchants guaranteed and faster payment, less overhead, better accounting and higher sales. You win when you use a card—and so do merchants.

TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE BEST PREPAID CARD

There are a lot of prepaid cards. Make sure you get the one with the most services, greatest protections and lowest fees. Here are some things to look for:

An FDIC-insured card. If something happens to the company that is holding your card, nothing will happen to your money. It's safe because it's insured.

More services with no or low fees. Many prepaid cards charge fees for getting cash back at the shop, taking money out from an ATM or checking your balance. Look for a card that doesn't charge fees or gives you a number of free services before they charge.

Easy reloading. You want to buy one card and reload it with more money. Make sure you are able to easily and cheaply reload your card with funds.

Easy transfers. You should be able to transfer funds from one card to another without a lot of hassle or expense.

Zero liability. You want a card that won't make you pay for any fraudulent charges or losses if the card is lost or stolen. You also want one that will return your money in the case of fraud or loss. All MasterCard prepaid cards have zero liability.

Financial strength with Master Your Card

Master Your Card is a public education program created by MasterCard® in 2011 that provides financial education that helps young adults learn how to save money, participate in the modern economy and make financial security a reality by using prepaid, debit and credit cards.