

# Easy Money Checking Frequently Asked Questions

REVISED JULY 15, 2015

## ■ What are the benefits of Easy Money Checking?

- Earn a high rate of interest with this 'everyday' checking account
- Get Worldwide ATM Refunds
- Unlimited Transactions

## ■ What must I do to earn the benefits?

During each qualification cycle, you **must** meet two easy requirements:

1. **Make 10 Point-of-Sale (POS) Debit Card transactions that post and settle within the Qualification Cycle. Debit card transactions processed by merchants and received by the bank as ATM transactions do not count towards qualifying debit card transactions. Only debit card transactions processed by merchants and received by the bank as POS transactions count towards qualifying debit card transactions.**
2. **Be enrolled and receive electronic statements (eStatements). An accurate email address is required.**

## What is a Qualification Cycle?

The Easy Money Qualification Cycle begins on your Statement Cycle cut-off date and ends on the preceding date of your next Statement Cycle cut-off. For example, your Statement Cycle date will generally end on the 15th of each month. Transactions on this date will be included in the following month's Qualification Cycle which will generally run through the 14th of each month. **However, circumstances can make the cut-off date earlier:**

If the 15th lands on a weekend or a Federal holiday, the qualification cut-off will be the preceding Thursday. (Business days are Monday through Friday.) **To ensure that your 10 debit card transactions post and settle before the cut-off, we recommend completing your transactions by the third week in the cycle or the 10th day of the month.** Pending transactions that don't clear will count toward the **next** cycle.



**At least 10 Point-of-Sale (POS) debit card transactions must post and settle to your account before the cut-off date of the qualification cycle for you to be eligible for high interest earnings and ATM refunds during that period.**

## ■ Please explain how transactions Settle and Clear.

The amount of time it takes for debit card transactions to post and settle varies. Merchants have different debit card processing schedules, which is not something that banks control. Some merchants 'settle' their transactions daily; others may take several days. **A merchant may, for example, only settle their debit card transactions once a week; this can cause your transaction to miss the**

**qualification cycle.** Only transactions that actually **clear** your account before the cut-off date count toward the 10 that are required to earn the higher interest rate and ATM refunds. *Don't wait until late in the cycle to make your debit card purchases and risk not having your transactions clear!*

While looking at your account history online, you may notice a debit transaction for a different amount than you actually spent. This is called a **preauthorization**, and is conducted by the merchant to see if your card is attached to a valid account. This amount is a 'place holder' until the merchant settles their debit card transactions. **Preauthorization transactions** don't count toward your 10 debit card purchase requirement - transactions only count when the actual purchase amount clears your account. **When the merchant settles their debit card transactions with the bank, the true amount clears your account.**

## Electronic Statements (eStatements)



**To qualify for the benefits of Easy Money, you MUST be enrolled and receive eStatements; when enrolling be sure to complete the final step that confirms your enrollment.** You can view your account history on your eStatement or in your online banking transaction history.

Remember, it's important to review your statement and report any errors within 60 days to maintain your rights regarding error resolution.

## ■ Why does Easy Money Checking have eStatement and debit card purchase requirements?

Electronic statements save a lot of money by eliminating paper and postage, and banks are paid a modest income by the major card companies for debit card usage. We pass the savings on to you by paying you a high rate of interest and refunding up to \$25 in ATM fees - no matter whose ATM you use.

## ■ What happens if I don't meet the eStatement and debit card purchase requirements?

You'll still earn 0.05% APY on your entire balance, but you won't receive ATM refunds for that period.

## ■ Is there a monthly maintenance fee for Easy Money Checking?

To avoid a monthly maintenance fee of \$6.00 you must:

- Maintain an average monthly balance of \$250 in your Easy Money Checking Account, **OR**
- Own/co-own Blackhawk Bank accounts with combined balances of at least \$15,000 as of your statement date. Qualifying balances include the average balances in your Checking, Savings, or Money Market Accounts

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and the end-of-day ledger balances in your CDs, Installment, Home Equity or Mortgage Loans. The average balance is calculated by adding the ending balance each day in the statement cycle and dividing the result by the number of days in the statement cycle.

#### ■ What should I do if my email address changes?

If your email address changes, it's important to update your online banking account. Remember, eStatements are one of the two requirements to qualify for higher interest earnings and ATM refunds. If we don't have a valid email address for you, we can't send your statement electronically. Simply log in to your account, click on the 'Options' tab and update your email address.

#### ■ Can the APY change for Easy Money Checking?

It's a variable interest rate product and the interest rate/APY can change at any time. The current annual percentage yield will always be very competitive and attractive.

#### ■ Will I receive a 1099 at the end of the year for interest earned with Easy Money Checking?

Federal law requires a 1099 for interest earnings of \$10.00 or greater.

#### ■ If my account balance goes negative, will I still qualify for the benefits during that qualification cycle?

As long as the 2 requirements are met, yes. **Just remember the balance requirement to avoid a \$6 monthly maintenance fee as mentioned above.**

#### ■ Do you really refund my ATM fees?

Yes, up to \$25 per Qualification Cycle. All you have to do is meet the 2 easy requirements during the qualification cycle. You will see the refunds in one lump sum on your Easy Money statement.

#### ■ How do I get copies of my checks?

You can view/print checks within NetTeller by clicking on View Transactions. Transaction history is available for 90 days. Copies of the front side of paid checks will also appear when you access your eStatement through the Electronic Statements/Notices tab.

Up to 18 months of eStatements will be retained in the Electronic Statements/Notices tab\*.

\*eStatements will begin to accumulate with the first statement after you have enrolled for eStatements. Currently eStatements in the Electronic Statements/Notices tab only contain history from 02/2013 to the present.

#### ■ What if I need a printed copy of my statement?

You have 3 format choices for printing your eStatement. If you need the bank logo to print on the statement, please choose the HTML format.

#### ■ How long will my eStatements be available online?

eStatements are archived for the most recent 18 month period.

#### ■ How many Easy Money Checking Accounts can I open?

One Easy Money personal checking account is allowed per Social Security Number for individuals age 16 and older.

#### ■ Is overdraft protection available for Easy Money checking accounts?

Yes, overdraft protection is available to qualified checking account customers.



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Revised 7.2015