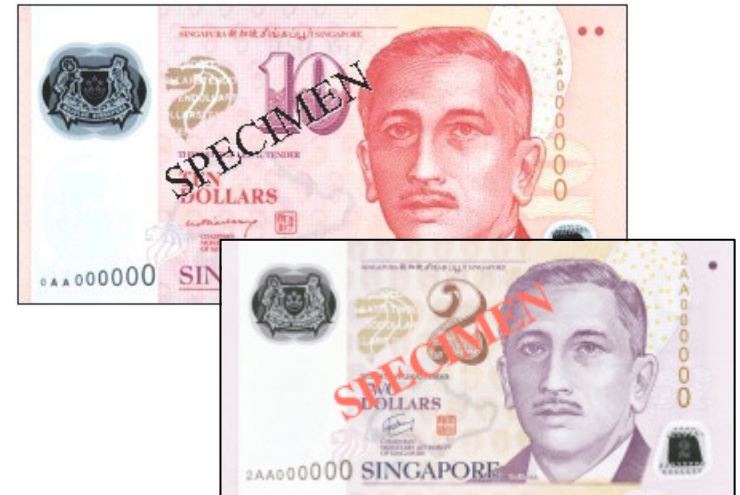




Monetary Authority of Singapore

HANDLING POLYMER NOTES



Monetary Authority
of Singapore
10 Shenton Way
MAS Building
Singapore 079117

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HANDLING OF POLYMER NOTES

The unique feel of polymer notes is an important authentication feature, and it is thus important for members of the public to be accustomed to it. At the same time, as polymer notes are different from paper notes, the initial handling may need some flexibility in approach, and this guide serves as a reference in adjusting to the new technology.

Polymer notes have a protective overcoat that provides a resilient and smooth surface, while retaining the special raised printing on certain areas. As a result, there is a natural attraction caused by the lack of air between the notes. This causes the common misconception that polymer notes are “sticky”. However, once the notes have been in circulation, the natural attraction will diminish. To some extent, new paper notes may also stick together because of an interaction of the fibres and inks on the notes. It is recommended that new polymer or paper notes should be separated when a packet is first opened.

A packet of notes can be separated by the following ways:



Fanning



Shuffling



Tapping

To facilitate hand-counting of notes, one may wish to use the areas where raised (i.e. intaglio) printing is found, like the word SINGAPORE and denomination numerals (i.e. “2” on the front and back of \$2 notes), as well as the engraved portrait. For polymer notes, as the windows have a different texture from the rest of the note, they can be useful reference points. By using the handling method that one is most comfortable with, confidence will come with familiarity over time.

DOS AND DON'TS



- ✓ New notes should be separated when a packet is opened
- ✓ If something is spilt on a polymer note, wash it with soap and water, and dry it with a cloth
- ✓ To unfold a note, lay it on a flat surface and apply slight pressure for a short period of time



- ✗ Avoid using excessive pressure to fold a note
- ✗ Do not use heating elements (e.g. hot iron) to dry wet notes
- ✗ Avoid creating tears at the edges with a cutting object, as once a tear is present, the polymer note will rip easily
- ✗ Do not deface a note with colour markers

The benefits of durability, cleanliness and ease of handling of polymer notes should become apparent over time, and any misconception will be allayed with more information and experience with the notes in circulation. We encourage the public to use polymer notes in daily transactions and deposit soiled or mutilated paper notes at banks.