

New overdraft regulations effective this summer

You may have read about upcoming changes to federal regulations regarding overdraft fees on certain types of transactions. The new rules will require banks and credit unions to seek an account holder's authorization to assess fees to cover overdrafts for ATM and one-time debit card transactions. The regulations are effective July 1 for new accounts and August 15 for existing accounts. As before, overdrafts for other types of transactions, including checks and periodic electronic debits, are still subject to overdraft fees without an account holder's authorization.

We want to provide you with options so you can make informed decisions based on your individual situation and needs. Please watch for updates over the next few months.

Shred your outdated documents & help community food bank

Cintas Document Management will shred documents on a first-come, first-served basis. Please limit your documents to the equivalent of three paper grocery bags per vehicle and remove any non-paper items. Staples and paper clips are okay.



- **Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m. - noon,** VACU at Boulders, Richmond
- **Friday, July 23, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.,** Chester Branch

We're also asking members to donate canned goods at these events to help the Central Virginia Foodbank.

Visit vacu.org or call us for details and directions.

When it makes sense to use a credit card instead of a debit card

Debit and credit cards are convenient ways to pay, and many people use both types of cards. Each has advantages and also things to consider.

Your VACU debit and credit cards offer you similar protections, with \$0 liability on fraudulent transactions. However, when you use a debit card, your checking account funds are used and may be held for merchant authorizations. You may wish to consider using a credit card for the following types of purchases:

- Online purchases and phone orders
- Major purchases or other purchases you may wish to return
- Gas stations and hotels, which may place holds on your funds for more than you expected
- Deposits on future travel or merchandise you have not yet received
- Restaurants where your card leaves your sight and the final amount may differ due to adding a tip
- Rental cars, which may add charges that you initially didn't plan for
- Purchases in foreign countries where merchant processing and returns take longer

Weigh the benefits and considerations of each:

DEBIT CARD

Benefits:

- The money comes from your checking account so you're using your own money, not credit.
- Useful for everyday purchases such as groceries and many routine expenses.

Considerations:

- If you need to return a purchase, you'll have to wait for the merchant to credit the funds back to your checking account.
- In an emergency, you won't be able to use your debit card if you don't have funds in your account and you don't have overdraft coverage. Or if you do have overdraft coverage, fees may apply.
- If unauthorized charges are made on your debit card, and you are unaware of it or waiting for the issue to be resolved, checks and other payments from your checking account could be returned unpaid.

CREDIT CARD

Benefits:

- Useful for purchases where you would like to delay payment—either until you get your statement and pay the balance in full, or you need to pay over time.
- Better option for online shopping and some other situations (see examples above).
- Helpful in emergencies when you don't have available funds in your checking account.

Considerations:

- There could be a risk of overspending if you're paying with credit.
- If you carry over a balance month to month, you'll pay interest. However, on most credit cards, you can avoid interest if you pay your balance in full each month within the grace period.

Tips to avoid overdrafts

- Record every transaction promptly and keep a running total of your checking account balance.
- Regularly use Online Banking to keep tabs on your accounts. View current and available balances, account history, pending debit card transactions, statements and more. QuikLine 24-hour Phone Banking is also helpful.
- Set up account alerts in Online Banking. You can receive a daily message to your email or mobile phone with your account balance, or you can be notified whenever your balance goes below a certain amount you specify.
- Balance your checking account regularly. Use the checkbook balancing form or calculator (Excel spreadsheet) at vacu.org.
- Sign up for automatic overdraft transfers from your savings, other checking accounts or line of credit. Personal lines of credit are available with limits starting at \$100.

Visit vacu.org for more information or to apply online for a personal line of credit for overdraft protection. Contact Member Services if you have questions or if we can help you in any way.



You could save with lower loan rates

If you're looking to lower your monthly payments or get rid of debt faster, it may be a good time to take a look at the loans you have with other lenders. You may be paying more than you would at VACU.

- **Mortgages and Home Equity options** - You can get help to determine which loan options and terms best meet your needs.
- **Car Loans** - Great rates and terms are available on both new and used cars.
- **Credit Cards** - Choose from Visa Platinum or Visa Gold rebate cards with no balance transfer fees.
- **Personal Loans** - With rates as low as 8.99% APR, a personal loan could be a great way to consolidate other debt or make purchases.

Call us to find out if you can lower your payment and pay your loan off faster by moving it to a low rate loan at Virginia Credit Union.

Free financial counseling for members

As a credit union member you have free access to confidential, professional financial counseling services six days a week through BALANCE, a financial fitness program.

BALANCE counselors can help with:

- Budgeting
- Housing education
- Credit report review
- Debt management plans
- Identity theft

In many cases BALANCE counselors can answer your questions immediately.

An appointment can be scheduled allowing more time to discuss your situation or concerns in detail.

Contact a BALANCE counselor toll-free at (888) 456-2227

Mon. - Thurs., 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Fri. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Let them know you're a Virginia Credit Union member.



Attend a FREE seminar

Retirement Plan Distributions

Tues., May 18, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

VACU at Boulders Office Park

7500 Boulders View Dr.
Richmond, VA 23225

Learn more about your options so you can make informed decisions when it's time to retire or change jobs.

Surviving Today's Economy

Wed., May 19, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Farmville Branch

100 Mid Town Avenue (Main Street)
Farmville, VA 23901

Learn practical steps for reducing spending, saving more of your income, cutting expenses, and dealing with debt.

First-time Homebuyers

Tues., June 8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

VACU at Boulders Office Park

7500 Boulders View Dr.
Richmond, VA 23225

Get tips and information from experts about preparing to buy a home.

Visit vacu.org or call Member Services for details, directions and to register for these and other seminars.



Virginia Credit Union

MEMBER SERVICES

(804) 323-6800 or (800) 285-6609
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Loan applications 24 hours

ALL OTHER DEPARTMENTS

(804) 323-6000 or (800) 285-5051
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

QUIKLINE 24-HOUR PHONE BANKING

Account inquiries and transfers
(804) 323-2000 or (800) 285-1096

SAVINGS RATE LINE

(804) 323-2580

WEB SITE & ONLINE BANKING

Online loan applications, rates and information at www.vacu.org

E-MAIL

memsvc@vacu.org

MAILING ADDRESS

Virginia Credit Union
P.O. Box 90010
Richmond, VA 23225-9010

VACU'S BANK ROUTING NUMBER

251082615

Federally
insured
by NCUA

