

Expert Tips: Use Venmo and PayPal Safely

Popular apps like Venmo and PayPal put you just a few taps away from sending money to a friend, but they also put your banking info at risk. These tips from the pros will help you protect your sensitive data:



- **Create a complex password.** Many of us are guilty of using the same memorable password everywhere we need to log in. However, a strong, unique password for your money-sharing apps can protect your financial accounts—even if someone happens to steal your data somewhere else.
- **Set up two-factor authentication.** Most peer-to-peer payment apps let you strengthen your security with two-factor authentication. This means you must submit your password and an additional piece of information (usually a text message with a special code) before making a payment.
- **Link credit cards, not debit cards.** Credit cards have far more consumer protection in place than bank accounts and debit cards. While regulations vary by state, you generally won't be responsible for more than \$50 in unauthorized charges on a credit card.
- **Secure payments outside the app.** When you're sending money through an app, the network you're using plays a big role in protecting your info. Experts say sending payment over password-protected wifi or on your cellular network may increase your security by 1,000% compared to a free wireless network at an airport or coffee shop.
- **Accept notifications.** No one loves being bombarded by notifications on their phone. But when it comes to money-sharing apps, it's worth turning on alerts so you can catch fraud the moment it occurs.
- **Log out.** Once you send a payment, don't just swipe out of the app; take a moment to officially sign out of your account. This is as important as having a strong password. Until you log out, your session is still active and someone could potentially steal your information.