



PRESS RELEASE

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

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FDIC Consumer News Features A Guide to Shopping for Bank Products and Services

The Summer 2005 issue of ***FDIC Consumer News***, published by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, features a "shopper's guide" to finding bank products and services that are both a good deal and a good fit.

The shopper's guide includes tips and information on:

- Comparison shopping and questions to ask before signing up for a mortgage, home equity loan products, a credit card, a checking account or a certificate of deposit;
- How and why to make sure credit records are accurate and in the best possible shape; and
- How to determine if a free computer or some other attractive gift for opening a new bank account really makes for a great deal.

The newsletter also covers hot topics in fraud prevention. One article addresses "security breaches" in which a retailer, credit card processing firm or other company reveals that confidential account information was "lost" or stolen. Another article warns consumers to beware of scams involving fake checks, many of which involve offers that arrive by mail or e-mail.

Other coverage touches on credit card issuers raising minimum payments; interim final rules taking effect March 7, 2006, on the use of medical information in connection with a decision about credit eligibility; and a new FDIC Web site that enables consumers to quickly and easily get answers to questions about a bank.

The Summer 2005 issue is available online at www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/cnsum05.

The goal of the quarterly ***FDIC Consumer News*** is to deliver timely, reliable and innovative tips and information, free of charge, to help people protect and stretch their money. Current and past issues appear online at www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news. The FDIC offers a free



Congress created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in 1933 to restore public confidence in the nation's banking system. It promotes the safety and soundness of these institutions by identifying, monitoring and addressing risks to which they are exposed. The FDIC receives no federal tax dollars — insured financial institutions fund its operations.

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