

Insuring Your Deposits

What Is the FDIC?

The FDIC – short for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation – is an independent agency of the United States government. The FDIC protects you against the loss of your deposits if an FDIC-insured bank or savings association fails. FDIC insurance is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. The term “insured bank” is used in this brochure to mean any bank or savings association with FDIC insurance.

To check whether your bank or savings association is insured by FDIC, call toll-free 1-877-275-3342, use "Bank Find" at www.fdic.gov/deposit/index.html, or look for the official FDIC sign where deposits are received.



Why Is FDIC Insurance Important to You?

All FDIC-insured banks must meet high standards for financial strength and stability. The FDIC, with other federal and state regulatory agencies, regularly reviews the operations of insured banks to ensure these standards are met. Even with these safeguards, some insured banks fail. If your insured bank fails, FDIC insurance will cover your deposits, dollar for dollar, including principal and any accrued interest, up to the insurance limit.

Historically, insured deposits are available to customers of a failed bank within just a few days. Since the start of the FDIC in 1933, no depositor has ever lost a penny of insured deposits.

What Does the FDIC Insure?

The FDIC insures all deposits at insured banks, including checking, NOW and savings accounts, money market deposit accounts, and certificates of deposit (CDs), up to the insurance limit.

The FDIC does not insure the money you invest in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, life insurance policies, annuities, or municipal securities, even if you purchased these products from an insured bank.

Basic Insurance Amount Is \$250,000

The basic insurance amount is \$250,000 per depositor per insured bank.

If you and your family have \$250,000 or less in all of your deposit accounts at the same insured bank, you do not need to worry about your insurance coverage -- your deposits are fully insured.

Coverage Over \$250,000

The FDIC provides separate insurance coverage for deposit accounts held in different categories of ownership.

You may qualify for more than \$250,000 in coverage at one insured bank if you own deposit accounts in different ownership categories.

Common Ownership Categories

The most common ownership categories are:

- [Single Accounts](#)
- [Certain Retirement Accounts](#)
- [Joint Accounts](#)
- [Revocable Trust Accounts](#)

Single Accounts

These are deposit accounts owned by one person and titled in that person's name only. All of your single accounts at the same insured bank are added together and the total is insured up to \$250,000. For example, if you have a checking account and a CD at the same insured bank, and both accounts are in your name only, the two accounts are added together and the total is insured up to \$250,000.

Note: Retirement accounts and qualifying trust accounts are not included in this ownership category.

Certain Retirement Accounts

These are deposit accounts owned by one person and titled in the name of that person's retirement plan. Only the following types of retirement plans are insured in this ownership category:

- Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) including traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs, Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRAs, and Savings Incentive Match Plans for Employees (SIMPLE) IRAs
- Section 457 deferred compensation plan accounts (whether self-directed or not)
- Self-directed defined contribution plan accounts
- Self-directed Keogh plan (or H.R. 10 plan) accounts

All deposits that an individual has in any of the types of retirement plans listed above at the same insured bank are added together and the total is insured up to \$250,000. For example, if an individual has an IRA and a self-directed Keogh account at the same bank, the deposits in both accounts would be added together and insured up to \$250,000.

Naming beneficiaries on a retirement account does not increase deposit insurance coverage.

Note: For information about FDIC insurance coverage for a type of retirement plan not listed above, refer to the FDIC resources on the back of this brochure.

Joint Accounts

These are deposit accounts owned by two or more people. If both owners have equal rights to withdraw money from a joint account, each person's shares of all joint accounts at the same insured bank are added together and the total is insured up to \$250,000.

If a couple has a joint checking account and a joint savings account at the same insured bank, each co-owner's

shares of the two accounts are added together and insured up to \$250,000, providing up to \$500,000 in coverage for the couple's joint accounts.

Example: John and Mary have a \$520,000 CD at an insured bank. Under FDIC rules, each person's share of each joint account is considered equal unless otherwise stated in the bank's records. John and Mary each own \$260,000 in the joint account category, putting a total of \$520,000 (\$260,000 for each) over the insurance limit.

Account Holders	Ownership Share	Amount Insured	Amount Uninsured
John	\$ 260,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 10,000
Mary	\$ 260,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 10,000
Total	\$ 520,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 20,000

Note: Jointly owned qualifying trust accounts are not included in this ownership category.

Revocable Trust Accounts

These are deposits held in either payable-on-death (POD) accounts or living trust accounts.

Payable-on-death (POD) accounts – also known as testamentary or Totten Trust accounts – are the most common form of revocable trust deposits. These informal revocable trusts are created when the account owner signs an agreement – usually part of the bank's signature card – stating that the deposits will be payable to one or more named beneficiaries upon the owner's death.

Living trusts – or family trusts – are formal revocable trusts created for estate planning purposes. The owner of a living trust controls the deposits in the trust during his or her lifetime.

Note: Determining coverage for living trust accounts can be complicated and requires more detailed information about the FDIC's insurance rules than can be provided in this publication. If you have a living trust account, contact the FDIC at 1-877-275-3342 for more information.

Deposit insurance coverage for revocable trust accounts is based on each owner's trust relationship with each beneficiary. While the trust owner is the insured party, coverage is provided for the interests of each beneficiary in the account. The FDIC insures the interests of each beneficiary up to \$250,000 for each owner if all of the following requirements are met:

- A beneficiary must be a person, charity or another non-profit organization (as recognized by the Internal Revenue Service). All other beneficiaries are not eligible for separate coverage as revocable trust deposits.
- The account title must indicate the existence of the trust relationship by including a term such as payable on death, in trust for, trust, living trust, family trust, or an acronym such as POD or ITF.
- For POD accounts, each beneficiary must be identified by name in the bank's account records.

If any of these requirements are not met, the entire amount in the account, or any portion of the account that does not qualify, would be added to the owner's other single accounts, if any, at the same bank and insured up to \$250,000. If the revocable trust account has more than one owner, the FDIC would insure each owner's share as his or her single account.

Note: The following example applies to POD accounts only. Coverage may be different for some living trusts.

Example: Bill has a \$250,000 POD account with his wife Sue as beneficiary. Sue has a \$250,000 POD account with Bill as beneficiary. In addition, Bill and Sue jointly have a \$1,500,000 POD account with their three children as equal beneficiaries.

Account Title	Account Balance	Amount Insured	Amount Uninsured
Bill POD to Sue	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 0
Sue POD to Bill	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 0
Bill & Sue POD to 3 children	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 0
Total	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 0

These three accounts totaling \$2,000,000 are fully insured because each owner is entitled to \$250,000 of coverage for the interests of each beneficiary in the accounts. Bill has \$1,000,000 of insurance coverage (\$250,000 for the interests of each beneficiary – his wife in the first account and his three children in the third account). Sue also has \$1,000,000 of insurance coverage (\$250,000 for the interests of each qualifying beneficiary – her husband in the second account and her three children in the third account).

When calculating coverage for revocable trust accounts, be careful to avoid these common mistakes:

- Do not assume that coverage is calculated as \$250,000 times the number of people –owner(s) and beneficiary(ies) – named on a trust account. Coverage is provided for the interest of each beneficiary named by each owner. Additional coverage is not provided to the owners for naming themselves as owners. For example, a father's POD account naming two sons as equal beneficiaries is insured to \$500,000 only -- \$250,000 for the interest of each beneficiary.
- Do not assume that the FDIC insures POD and living trust accounts separately. In applying the \$250,000 per-beneficiary insurance limit, the FDIC combines an owner's POD accounts with the living trust accounts that name the same beneficiaries at the same bank.

Important!

Accounts held POD to a revocable living trust will be insured as if the account were held in the name of the living trust.

For More Information from the FDIC

Call toll-free at:

1-877-ASK-FDIC (1-877-275-3342)

from 8 am until 8 pm (Eastern Time)

Monday through Friday

Hearing Impaired Line:

1-800-925-4618

Calculate your insurance coverage using the FDIC's online Electronic Deposit Insurance Estimator at: www2.fdic.gov/edie

Request a copy of "[Your Insured Deposits: FDIC's Guide to Deposit Insurance Coverage](#)," which provides a detailed description of the ownership categories, by calling toll free at: **1-877-275-3342**

For downloadable, camera-ready files of "Your Insured Deposit" and "Insuring Your Deposit," visit "[Reprintable](#)

[FDIC Brochures](#) at www.fdic.gov, "About FDIC."

Read more about FDIC insurance online at: www.fdic.gov/deposit/deposits

Order FDIC deposit insurance products online at www2.fdic.gov/depositinsuranceregister

Send your questions by e-mail using the FDIC's online Customer Assistance Form at: www2.fdic.gov/starsmail

Mail your questions to:
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Attn: Deposit Insurance Outreach
550 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20429-9990

Last Updated 10/04/2008