

Visa® Chip cards are here



Helping retailers speed up transactions and reduce the risk of fraud

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What are Visa Chip cards?

Visa Chip cards have an embedded microchip that, in most cases, works with a personal identification number (PIN) instead of a cardholder signature. Processed using Chip-reading terminals, Visa Chip cards help ensure highly secure transactions. The microchip is virtually impossible to duplicate and enables secure payment transaction processing. The enhanced authentication made possible by Visa Chip technology in cards and terminals can help you improve fraud protection, simplify payment processing and speed up transactions.

Make sure your point-of-sale (POS) terminals are up to date so that you can benefit from the enhanced security that Visa Chip offers and help avoid financial implications as a result of Liability Shift: when a valid PIN is entered and accepted and the transaction is approved, you and your staff are no longer responsible for signature verification.

The world is migrating to Chip technology

More than 483 million Visa Chip cards have been issued globally, reducing card-present credit card fraud in over 113 countries where Chip technology has been used,¹ including Canada. Chip cards are continuing to be rolled out to Canadian Visa cardholders.

How Visa Chip cards work

A transaction using a Visa Chip card with a Chip-reading terminal is simple. Rather than swiping the card and signing a receipt, the cardholder inserts the Visa Chip card into the terminal, follows the prompts to complete the transaction (which may include PIN entry - some Visa Chip cards may require a signature instead of a PIN), then removes the card when prompted.

What to do if a customer forgets his/her PIN?

If a customer forgets the Visa card's PIN, or the PIN is locked through repeated incorrect attempts to enter the PIN, advise the customer to contact their Visa card Issuer. The Issuer's phone number can be found on the back of the Visa card.

Processing Visa cards

Some Visa cards may use either Chip technology or a magnetic stripe for processing. Different cards may need to be processed differently. To minimize the risk of declined or incomplete transactions, please ensure that proper card-acceptance procedures are followed. You should expect to process:

- Magnetic stripe Visa cards that require a signature for verification
- Visa Chip cards that require a PIN for verification
- Visa Chip cards that require a signature for verification[†]

For more information visit visa.ca/merchant.

Frequently asked questions

How can my business benefit by accepting Visa Chip cards?

By accepting Visa Chip cards at a chip-reading terminal at your location:

- You can expect a reduced frequency of fraud-related chargebacks
- You and your staff will no longer be responsible for signature verification when a PIN is entered[†]

What is the Visa Liability Shift and how does it affect me?

Effective October 1, 2010, liability for card-present fraudulent transactions will reside with the non-Chip-compliant party — which is the Visa Acquirer or Issuer who is not using Chip technology. Merchants who process Chip cards at their non-Chip-reading terminal may expose themselves to liability for fraudulent transactions performed at their terminal. For more details regarding Liability Shift, contact your Acquirer/Payment Processor.

- Migrating to the Chip platform is important for protecting your business and customers from fraud and related liability. You are encouraged to ensure your POS systems are up to date, and you can do so by contacting your Acquirer/Payment Processor.

[†]The device will usually prompt the cardholder to enter a PIN, unless the terminal indicates that another cardholder verification method is required (such as a signature).

Will I continue to see Visa cards with magnetic stripes in Canada?

While Canada is migrating to Chip technology, magnetic stripes will remain on some Visa cards and will continue to provide a safe, reliable and convenient method of payment. In addition, Chip-reading terminals will be able to process Visa cards with a magnetic stripe. Likewise, Chip cards can be processed by non-Chip-reading devices via the magnetic stripe. Use of a Chip card's magnetic stripe in a magnetic stripe terminal may result in a Liability Shift to the merchant for fraudulent transactions.

How can I get a Chip-reading terminal in my store?

Contact your Acquirer/Payment Processor to replace your non-Chip-reading terminals with Chip-reading terminals.

To find out more about the benefits of Chip technology and the importance of liability protection, visit visa.ca/merchant, or contact your Acquirer/Payment Processor today to order a Chip-reading terminal for your business.

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¹As of September 2009, as reported by Visa-issuing financial institutions globally and may therefore be subject to change.

* Visa claim based upon worldwide number of general purpose cards, number of transactions and purchase volume. Visa is a registered trademark of Visa Int.; Visa Canada is a licensed user.