

Can Wet Money Still Be Used? aa

Accidents happen. Whether you left a wad of cash in your jeans before putting them in the wash or you got caught out in a rainstorm, money can inevitably get wet.

But does that mean you can no longer use it? No, in fact, wet money is still money.

There are ways to dry it out and you may need to take it to your bank for it to get exchanged, but you're not out the value of the cash just because it got wet.

Keep reading for some tips on using wet money.

How to Dry Wet Currency

To drain the excess water, place the notes on napkins. To remove the water, place another napkin on top of each bill.

Place the cash on a level surface in a cool, dark location with plenty of fresh air. The air aids in the gradual drying of the cash.

To keep the air circulating around the banknotes without blowing them around, switch on a fan to its slowest setting.

You can also put individual bills in between pages of a hefty book. While drying, the mass of the book straightens the currency.

It is important to note that you should never use an iron to straighten the money, as the heat can cause the notes to discolor.

Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some of the most commonly asked questions about wet money.

Does Money Get Ruined in the Wash?

The majority of bills should survive the washing machine and dryer. Technically, as long as you have 51% of a bill, you can get it replaced for the full amount.

On the other hand, while a wash cycle may make your money appear spotless, it destroys the bills; high water temperature can ruin security features, and detergents alter the way currency reflects light, which currency-sorting machines sense.

If you washed your money, bring it to the bank to explain what happened and see if they'll exchange it. If your bank won't take it, they may have you send it to the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Washed money is generally taken out of circulation after it's turned in.

Are Dollar Bills Waterproof?

US bills are made from cotton fiber which is water-resistant but not waterproof. The ink that the bills are printed with is waterproof.

