

Tips for handling polymer banknotes

Polymer banknotes are tough, but they still require some care when handling.

Avoid heat

Polymer notes react to very hot temperatures and shrink or melt when ironed or exposed to open flames.

Cleaning

Polymer notes are water and oil resistant and can be wiped clean with a damp cloth.

Don't staple them

Use paper bands when bundling notes. Do not staple or pin banknotes as the tiny holes can easily cause a banknote to tear.

Don't deface

Don't write on banknotes. It is illegal to deface New Zealand currency.

Fan them out to count

When counting a bundle of new notes- fan them, tap them against a hard surface or shuffle them to ensure they don't stick together.

Tearing

Polymer notes are tough. It is very difficult to initiate a rip in a polymer note. However, once a tear is started, a polymer note will rip easily. Repair torn notes with tape and use them again. They will be removed from circulation when they are returned to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand.

Avoid crumpling

Keep banknotes straight and flat. Avoid creasing, crumpling or folding notes. Flatten out creased notes by applying pressure to the note, or curling them in your hand. Never iron a banknote.

