

Personal Banking

Debit Card Authorizations

Why am I seeing a temporary hold on my account balance?

For purchases made with a debit card, merchants may request a temporary hold on your account for a specified sum of money that may be higher than the actual amount of your purchases. When this happens, our processing system cannot determine that the amount of the hold exceeds the actual amount of your purchase. This temporary hold, and the amount charged to your account, will be adjusted to the final purchase amount after the merchant settles the transaction, or within three (3) business days of the purchase, whichever is less.

Until the adjustment is made, the amount of funds in your account available for other transactions will be reduced by the amount of this temporary hold. Other transactions made that total an amount greater than the funds available after the deduction of the temporary hold amount will cause your account to be overdrawn and may trigger a nonsufficient funds (NSF) transaction if the account does not have overdraft protection.

You may be charged an NSF or overdraft fee according to our NSF or overdraft fee policy for your account type. This fee will be charged even if there were sufficient funds in your account if the amount of the hold was not larger than the amount of your purchase.

Example:

You have \$120 in your account. You swipe your card at a gas station which requests a hold of \$80 for all gas purchases. Our system authorizes the temporary hold of \$80 from your account. Once you've finished pumping, your total gas purchase is \$50. Our processing system shows that you have \$40 available in your account due to the \$80 hold ($\$120 - \$80 = \40) even though your final purchase amount of \$50 would leave you with \$70 available in your account if the amount of the temporary hold was equal to your actual purchase ($\$120 - \$50 = \$70$).

Later, another authorized transaction in the amount of \$60 is presented. Because the transaction hold adjustment for the gasoline purchase may take up to three (3) business days, your account will show insufficient funds and could result in either an overdraft transaction or NSF should other purchases post to your account before the hold expires.

If you have overdraft protection, you will be charged a fee according to policy even though you would have had enough money in your account to cover the \$60 transaction if your account had only been debited the amount of your purchase rather than the amount of the temporary hold or if the temporary hold had already been adjusted to the actual amount.

If you have any questions, please visit a Washington Trust branch or call **800.788.4578**.