

The cost of using your debit or credit card abroad

When you're travelling abroad one of the things to consider is how to take your spending money. You can choose between a combination of using your NatWest debit and credit cards, travellers' cheques and foreign currency.

Below is an example which shows what the charges would be if you bought something for €100 (Euros) with your NatWest debit or credit card.

	Payment method	
	Debit card	Credit card
Purchase amount: €100		
Example exchange rate (we use the Visa Europe or MasterCard exchange rate):	1.24	1.24
Amount in Sterling:	£80.65	£80.65
The following charges are then added: Exchange Rate Transaction Fee (2.75% of £80.65):	£2.21	£2.21
Commission (fixed fee):	£1.25	nil
Total amount you'd be debited for this purchase is:	£84.11	£82.86

Dynamic currency conversion and cash withdrawals

When using your cards abroad, you can sometimes pay in sterling rather than local currency. Paying this way is often more expensive than paying in the local currency as there could be a local charge. If you do pay in sterling, then the Exchange Rate Transaction Fee (ERTF) on both NatWest debit and credit cards will not apply, nor will the £1.25 commission on debit cards. Please note that if you withdraw cash abroad or in the UK using your NatWest credit card, regardless of currency, then a 3% (min £3) cash advance will always apply.

Below is an example which shows what the charges would be if you withdrew €100 (Euros) from a cash machine with your NatWest debit or credit card.

	Withdrawal method	
	Debit card	Credit card
Amount taken out: €100		
Example exchange rate (we use the Visa Europe or MasterCard exchange rate):	1.24	1.24
Amount in Sterling:	£80.65	£80.65
The following charges are then added: Exchange Rate Transaction Fee (2.75% of £80.65):	£2.21	£2.21
2% commission – (minimum £2 – maximum £5) (based upon the running total £82.86):	£2.00	nil
3% cash advance charge – (minimum £3) (based upon the running total of £82.86):	nil	£3.00
Total amount you'd be debited for this cash withdrawal is:	£84.86	£85.86

Rates shown in the example are correct as at 4 June 2012, with the payment scheme exchange rate of 1.24 used for both debit and credit cards. If you are withdrawing money from cash machines, make sure you know your daily withdrawal limit. But remember, you'll need to know what your limit is when converted to the country's currency.

Things to remember

The exchange rates that we use to convert your money can change daily – to see the up-to-date rates used for debit cards visit www.visaeurope.com and click on the **Cardholders** section. For credit card rates visit www.mastercard.com/global and click on the **Currency Converter** tool. No interest free period for cash advances or money transfers on credit cards. Further information can be found at www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/en/articles/cheap-cards-to-use-abroad or for UK cards only www.theukcardsassociation.org.uk/individual/information-using-card-overseas.asp

Please note that the transaction posting date may differ from the day on which you made the transaction. The transaction posting date is shown on your debit or credit card statement and should be used to calculate exchange rates retrospectively.