



Security guide

How secure is Earnnest?

Encryption

Earnnest is built from the ground up to secure real estate payments. Earnnest uses the 256-bit AES encryption standard chosen by financial institutions and the U.S. government. This standard is the most advanced and secure encryption algorithm.

This means you have the ability to fund your earnest money payment while keeping sensitive banking information secure. To be clear — Earnnest cannot (and does not want to) access the encrypted portal through which you select your funding bank. This means we never handle any sensitive information. This is good news for you and for us.

Personally identifiable information

Due to Federal laws like the Patriot Act, Earnnest will need to verify your identity. We will ask you for information including your legal name, current address, and last four of your Social Security Number. Earnnest does not store this information so there's no possibility for a malicious party to access it later.

The perils of personal checks

While the perils of wire-fraud are well known, the inherent security risks in checks aren't much discussed. Checks are full of sensitive personal data like name, address, banking institution, routing number, and account number. This can lead to risk of identity theft or an account take over.

Another peril of personal checks is insufficient funds leading to a bounced check. Earnnest verifies the amount in the buyer's bank account before completing the transfer of funds. This eliminates the risk of insufficient funds.

Valuable Features for Escrow Partners

Earnnest populates the addendum field within the escrow holders account ledger (buyers name, property address, and ID tracking #). This value-add makes reconciliation for the escrow holder a breeze. We've created a video that explains more benefits for escrow holders, [you can watch it here](#). Earnnest also indemnifies escrow holders and eliminates any possibility of ACH pullback.