

# Domestic payments

## IBAN in domestic payments

Swiss financial institutions have been converting their account numbers into the “International Bank Account Number” (IBAN). This standardization facilitates the automatic processing of both domestic and international payments.

### What is the IBAN?

The **IBAN** is a nationally and internationally recognized account number format that identifies a single account of a financial institution.

The length of the IBAN varies depending on the country (max. 34 digits). A Swiss IBAN always has 21 digits.

Example of a Swiss IBAN:

CH38 0888 8123 4567 8901 2

Country code (2 digits)  
Check digit (2 digits)  
Bank ID (5 digits)  
Account number (12 digits)

### Why are Swiss account numbers being changed to IBAN?

Payments with an IBAN can be automated and processed more cost-efficiently than with conventional Swiss bank account numbers which, unlike postal account numbers, often do not have a check digit. A standardized format such as the IBAN can be validated as soon as it is entered.

### What does this mean for you?

A postal account number can be converted to an IBAN and may be used in payment transactions. You will find your personal IBAN on your account statement or in e-finance. PostFinance’s electronic creditor services, such as the electronic payment order EPO (2nd and 3rd generation) and e-finance, are IBAN-compatible. PostFinance Ltd recommends to use the IBAN whenever possible for your payment transactions.

#### IBAN calculation tools

- Convert postal account numbers to IBAN online at [postfinance.ch/iban](https://postfinance.ch/iban).
- Convert bank account numbers to IBAN online at [www.iban.ch](https://www.iban.ch). You will also find a conversion program which you can download free of charge under this link.

### Advice and information

If you require further information concerning the IBAN please visit [postfinance.ch/iban](https://postfinance.ch/iban) or contact your account manager.

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