NAPLES COMPUTERS HOW-TO · SECURITY & SAFETY

QR Code Scams (Parking Meters, Restaurant Menus)

A QR code sticker on a parking meter or restaurant table might not be the real one. Scammers are covering real codes with fake ones that lead to a page built to steal your card or password, or even install malware. This guide shows the warning signs, and what to do if you already scanned one. (The sticker, number and locations shown are made-up examples.)

How the scam works

A sticker over the real code, leading somewhere it shouldn't.

A sticker over the real code
Placed right on top, at parking meters, restaurant tables, even parking garages.

A fake payment or login page
Looks real, but it's built just to collect your card number or password.

Sometimes, malware
A bad QR code can also try to install something harmful on your phone.

The warning signs of a QR code scam

WARNING SIGN

1 Look for a sticker that's stuck on top

Crooked, peeling at a corner, or a different finish than the sign around it.

WHAT TO DO
A real parking meter's code is printed right on the meter, not stuck on as a separate sticker.



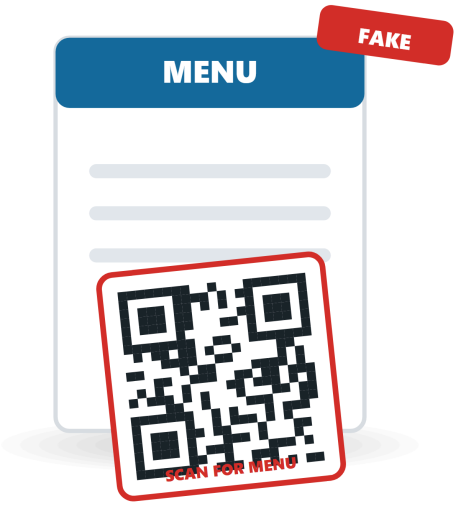
NOT JUST PARKING

2 Same trick, at a restaurant table

A fake “scan for menu” sticker can lead to a page asking for your card, instead of just the menu.

WHAT TO DO

If in doubt, just ask your server for a paper menu, or search the restaurant's name yourself.



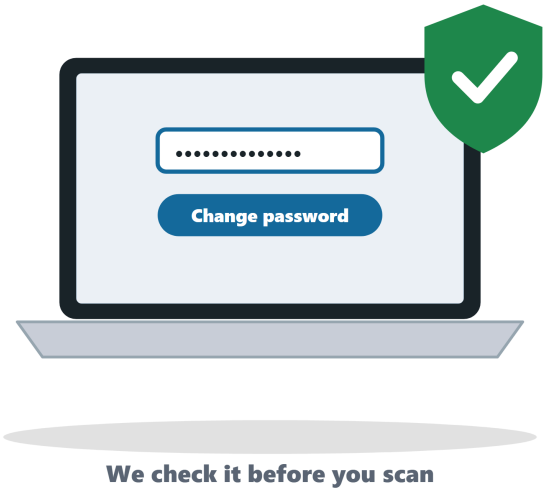
NAPLES COMPUTERS

★ Not sure if a QR code is safe?

Send us a photo of it before you scan, and we'll help you check.

WHAT TO DO

Already scanned a bad one? Call 239-513-1960, and we'll help check your device and accounts.



Warning sign 2: check before you tap

- [ ] Look at the web address first
  Your phone shows a preview before opening it — read it carefully
- [ ] Misspellings or extra words
  Like “parking-paay” or a “.net” instead of the city or app's real domain
- [ ] A text or email you didn't expect
  Never scan a code from an unexpected message, even one that looks official

3 rules to remember

- [ ] Look before you scan
  A crooked or peeling sticker is a red flag
- [ ] Read the address preview
  Don't open a link that looks even slightly off
- [ ] Use the official app or pay-by-phone number instead
  Most parking apps and garages list one right on the sign

Already scanned one? Act fast.

- [ ] Entered a password or card number?
  Change that password everywhere you used it, and call your card company
- [ ] Just opened the page, entered nothing?
  Close it, and keep an eye on your accounts for anything odd
- [ ] Worried about malware?
  Run a security scan, or bring it to us and we'll check it

Recap: QR code scams

- [ ] A sticker over the real code is the trick
- [ ] Look for crooked, peeling, or mismatched stickers
- [ ] Check the web address preview before opening it
- [ ] Never scan a code from an unexpected text or email
- [ ] Scanned a bad one? Change passwords, check statements, report it

Before scanning any QR code in public, check for a sticker that looks stuck on top of another one, and always read the web address preview before opening it. When in doubt, use the official app or pay-by-phone number instead.

NAPLES COMPUTERS

Found a suspicious QR code? We'll check it for you.

Call 239-513-1960

naplescomputers.com · **We Make I.T. Happen!**