Tips for Buying Non-Deposit Investment Products
– Accessible Version

As you learned in the previous section, the FDIC does not insure non-deposit investment products such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and annuities.

Because the FDIC only insures funds held in deposit accounts at FDIC-insured banks, you should keep these important tips in mind when buying non-bank investment products.

**Build an Emergency Fund**
Have enough emergency money in a federally insured savings or other readily accessible account to support you and your family for at least six months before investing in non-deposit products.

**Do Your Homework**
Never invest in a product you do not understand. Attend classes, seminars, or check the business reference section of your public library to become a better informed investor. Start at [www.investor.gov](http://www.investor.gov).

**Understand the Risks**
Investments always have some degree of risk. Be sure your sales representative knows your financial objectives and risk tolerance.

**Pick Your Broker Carefully**
Find out about your broker’s background via the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) BrokerCheck at the following website: [www.finra.org](http://www.finra.org).

You can also call the FINRA BrokerCheck Hotline at **1-800 289-9999** or contact the state securities office and Better Business Bureau.

**Invest Wisely**
Invest wisely online and offline. Be wary of investment scams. Make checks payable to a company or financial institution; never an individual. Take your time when making investment choices. Be careful of “act now” or “before it’s too late” statements.

**Keep Good Records**
Retain and maintain account statements and confirmations you receive about your investment transactions. Document all conversations with brokers.

**Take Immediate Action**
Take immediate action if you detect a problem. Time is critical so do not be afraid to complain.