

SLOTS



Slots are intended to be fun. Just remember they are programmed so that when you play, over the long run, you will lose more money than you will win.



What you should know
about playing slots

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Slots can provide entertainment when you play for fun and manage your play. That means being informed on how Slots work, and not spending more time or money than you can afford.



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SMART TIPS FOR PLAYING SLOTS

1. Don't chase losses

You could play a slot machine for an hour and never win. Or you could win on your first spin. Continuing to play when you've already lost your budgeted amount is a surefire way to spend more money than planned.

2. Set your time and money limits before you start

Deciding how much money and time you want to spend before you play is a good way to keep the games fun and enjoyable. Set a limit, and stick to it. Limits should be set according to what you can afford to spend.

3. Be aware that wins are random

No matter what you do, the wins and losses are random. Changing bet amounts, or trying to time the spins, have no effect on the outcome. They are randomly generated, and cannot be influenced by anything you do.

4. Take breaks

Stepping away from the machine for a break or a walk is a great way to collect your thoughts and decrease any anxiety or stress the game may be causing.

5. Never borrow money to gamble

Use only your own money that you can afford to spend.

6. Only take what you are prepared to spend

Setting a budget for what you will spend on gambling helps you control your spending. When you've spent your gambling budget, walk away.



THE TRUTH ABOUT SLOTS

There are many myths about how slot machines work, and how you can 'beat' the system to win more often. In reality, slots are like any other form of gambling, there is no way to control the outcome. The results are random.

MYTH: If you leave a machine after playing for a while, the next player can steal your jackpot.

FACT: There is no such thing as 'stealing a jackpot'. Slot machines randomly generate new numbers every millisecond (1,000th of a second). The number generated at the exact moment of play is the number that will determine a win or loss. For each millisecond, the numbers are different.

MYTH: There are 'hot' and 'cold' machines.

FACT: There is no such thing as a 'hot' or 'cold' machine. Slots randomly generate numbers that determine outcomes, so the wins and losses are completely unpredictable and random. A machine could randomly generate a few wins in a row and it may look like the machine is on a winning streak. But in reality, it is just a coincidence. The past performance of a machine has nothing to do with the next play.

MYTH: It's possible to figure out a slot machine's pattern to develop a strategy to win.

FACT: There is no way to influence or predict the outcome of a slot machine spin. Nor is there a pattern to wins or losses. The numbers that determine outcomes are randomly generated. Even if you think you see a pattern, there isn't one. Results that look like a pattern are a coincidence.



MYTH: A slot machine is 'due' to payout if it hasn't paid out for an extended period of time.

FACT: A slot machine is never 'due' to payout. If a machine has not paid out in a long time, it could just as easily continue not to payout or it could suddenly payout. All outcomes are completely unpredictable.

MYTH: A 'near win' is a sign that a slot is about to payout.

FACT: The outcome of each spin is random and independent of the last one. A 'near win' is as likely as any other outcome. It's unpredictable.

HOW SLOTS WORK

Slots are forms of electronic gaming machines. They are controlled by computer programs that randomly generate numbers every millisecond. These numbers determine whether you win or lose. This means that at any point – whether you've been playing for 5 seconds or 1 hour – the outcomes are unpredictable and independent of each other.

CHANCES OF WINNING

The payout percentage of slot machine games in Nova Scotia ranges from 91% to 92%, depending on the game. A payout percentage is the amount that is theoretically paid back to the player over the lifetime of a game. It does not reflect the amount a player could win or lose on an individual spin. Those outcomes are completely random and unpredictable. It is important to remember that over the long run, a player will likely lose more than they win when playing slot machines.



This brochure has been developed by:



The Gambling Support Network provides online and phone support for Nova Scotians and their families who may have gambling-related concerns. The services are free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

1-888-347-8888 or TTY access through 711
gamblingsupportnetwork.ca

For more information, please visit

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