

Crypto Self-Custody Checklist

This checklist gives you the minimum steps to secure your funds on:

- Part A : a software wallet
- Part B : a hardware wallet

If you don't know whether you need a software wallet or a hardware wallet, start with our [Crypto and Bitcoin Self-Custody guide](#).



*Crypto and Bitcoin
Self-Custody guide*

Part A – Self-Custody with a Software Wallet

1. Prepare

- ☐ Use a clean, updated device (phone or laptop).
- ☐ Enable screen lock (PIN/biometrics).
- ☐ Use a home network, not public Wi-Fi.

[Crypto Software Wallets](#)

2. Choose & Install

- ☐ Pick a well-known wallet app (good reviews, active since years).
- ☐ Download only from the official website or official app store.
- ☐ Check the exact name + logo to avoid fake apps.



3. Create Wallet & Backup Seed

- ☐ Go to "Create new wallet".
- ☐ When the seed phrase appears:
 - ☐ Write it by hand on paper (no photos, no screenshots).
 - ☐ Make 2 copies stored in 2 different safe places.
- ☐ Do not save it in email, cloud, chat, or notes apps.

[Setup Crypto Wallet](#)



4. Test With a Small Amount

- ☐ Copy your receive address from the wallet.
- ☐ Send a small test amount from an exchange/other wallet.
- ☐ Check that the funds arrive in the app.

5. Test the Backup (Very Important)

- ☐ On another device or after reinstall: choose "Import / Restore from seed".
- ☐ Re-enter your seed phrase from your paper backup.
- ☐ Confirm you see the same address and test funds.
- ☐ If it fails, stop, create a new wallet and repeat until restore works.

6. Use & Maintain

- ☐ Move larger funds only after a successful restore test.
- ☐ Keep the app updated from the official source only.
- ☐ Never share your seed phrase or private key with anyone.
- ☐ Be cautious with unknown dApps, links, and "airdrops" that ask to connect your wallet.

Part B – Self-Custody with a Hardware Wallet

1. Prepare the Device

- ☐ Buy directly from official website or authorized reseller (no used devices).
- ☐ Check the box is sealed and the device looks untampered.

[Best hardware wallets](#)



2. Initial Setup (Offline & Private)

- ☐ Set up the device yourself, following the official guide.
- ☐ Create a strong PIN and memorize it (don't reuse other PINs).
- ☐ When the device shows the seed phrase:
 - ☐ Write it on paper (and/or metal plate).
 - ☐ Make 2 copies in 2 locations.
- ☐ Never type the seed phrase on your computer or phone.

[Setup Crypto Wallet](#)



3. Connect to Official App

- ☐ Install only the official companion app (desktop or mobile).
- ☐ Verify the URL and publisher before downloading.
- ☐ Pair the device and app, then create a receive address.

4. Test With a Small Amount

- ☐ Send a small test transaction to your hardware wallet address.
- ☐ Confirm on the device screen itself that the address is correct before sending.
- ☐ Check the funds appear in the app.

5. Test Seed Phrase Recovery

- ☐ Use a second device or reset the hardware wallet (follow official steps).

- ☐ Choose "Restore from recovery phrase" on the device.
- ☐ Re-enter the seed on the device, not on the computer.
- ☐ Confirm your wallet + funds are back.

6. Long-Term Storage, Inheritance & Traps

- ☐ Store hardware wallet and seed backups in separate, safe places.
- ☐ Write a simple inheritance note (where the backup is, how to use it) without the seed itself.
- ☐ Before any firmware update, verify your seed backup is readable.
- ☐ Ignore anyone asking you to "enter your seed to fix a problem".
- ☐ Don't talk publicly about how much you hold or where it is.

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