

Your first hardware wallet in 30 minutes

A calm, step-by-step setup for a single-signature bitcoin wallet. Free from Cold Hard Custody.

Before you start

Buy the device only from the maker's official store or a reseller listed on the maker's own site. As of October 15, 2026 our tracker recommends BitBox02, Blockstream Jade or Trezor Safe models on current firmware; see coldhardcustody.com/security-status.

Have ready: the sealed device, a pen, the paper recovery card from the box, a private room with no cameras or smart speakers, and about \$20 of bitcoin for a test (optional).

0–5 min Inspect the box

- ☐ Check seals and packaging against the maker's own description.
- ☐ Stop if the device arrives already set up, or the box contains a pre-printed list of recovery words. Contact the maker directly using the address on their official site.

5–10 min Install the official software

- ☐ Type the maker's web address yourself; do not follow ads or emailed links.
- ☐ Install the maker's app (or Sparrow Wallet from sparrowwallet.com, verified with its signature).
- ☐ Run the device's genuine check and update firmware to at least the minimum listed on our Security Status page. Confirm the version on the device screen.

10–20 min Create a brand-new seed on the device

- ☐ Choose 'create new wallet' on the device itself. Never restore words someone else gave you.
- ☐ Set a strong PIN.
- ☐ Write each word by hand, numbered, on the paper card. Check every word against the device screen.
- ☐ Never photograph, screenshot, type or cloud-store the words. No notes apps, no password managers, no email.

20–25 min Receive a small test amount

- ☐ Generate a receive address in the app and confirm it matches exactly on the device screen.
- ☐ Send a small amount from your exchange to that address.

25–30 min Prove your backup works

- ☐ Once the test coins arrive, wipe or reset the device and restore it from your written words, on the device only.
- ☐ Confirm the same wallet and balance reappear. Only then send larger amounts.
- ☐ Store the card somewhere private and dry. Plan to move it to a metal backup soon.

Never break these rules

Nobody legitimate will ever ask for your recovery words: not support staff, not us, not an exchange.
Only enter your words on the hardware wallet itself, never on a website, phone or computer.

Updating firmware does not fix a seed made on flawed firmware. If an advisory says your seed is affected, make a new seed and move funds.

Next steps: seed backup to metal, then the setup and backup checklists at coldhardcustody.com/checklists.

Educational only, not financial advice. Do not write your recovery words on this sheet.