

Step-by-step setup for beginners. Save this PDF and print for your binder. Complete the tiny practice before moving real funds.

What You Need (5 minutes)

- Quiet space, pen, and plain paper (no photos).
- Phone or computer with updated OS.
- Password manager installed and working.
- Official app store access or typed official wallet URL.

Step 1 — Choose a Wallet

Pick a reputable self-custody wallet (mobile app or hardware). Verify the official name and publisher. Avoid lookalikes.

- Mobile: easier to start; ideal for tiny amounts and learning.
- Hardware: offline security; ideal once balances matter.

Step 2 — Install from Official Source

- Install only from the official app store or typed URL you verified.
- Check the publisher name and reviews; avoid random plugins.

Step 3 — Create Wallet & Back Up Seed Phrase

- When prompted, write the seed phrase on paper—clearly and in order.
- Make two copies and label them (Copy A / Copy B).
- Never screenshot, photograph, or store it in the cloud.

Step 4 — Store in Two Safe Places

- Keep copies in separate locations (e.g., home and trusted offsite).
- Consider fire/water-resistant storage.

Step 5 — Enable App Security

- Set a strong passcode/biometrics and an app auto-lock.
- If the wallet supports an anti-phishing phrase, enable it.

Step 6 — Receive Address & Label Network

- Copy your receive address; confirm the network (e.g., Bitcoin, Ethereum).
- Verify the first/last 4 characters when sharing or pasting.

Step 7 — Tiny Test Transfer

- Send a very small amount (e.g., \$5) from your exchange to the wallet.
- Ensure the network matches on both sides; wait for confirmations.

Step 8—Practice a Seed Phrase Restore (Empty Wallet First)

- On a spare device or after wiping the app, restore using your seed phrase.
- Confirm you can view the same address and tiny test balance.
- After the test, wipe the spare device/app if not needed.

Ongoing Habits

- Never type or share your seed phrase except inside your wallet's restore screen.
- Review connected apps/sites monthly; revoke anything you don't use.
- Keep devices updated and secured with screen locks.