

MY ACCOUNT > LOG IN & UNLOCK

# Your Master Password

View in the help center:  
<https://bitwarden.com/help/master-password/>

## Your Master Password

Your master password is the primary method for accessing Bitwarden. It's important that your master password is:

- **Memorable:** Bitwarden employees and systems have **no** knowledge of, way to retrieve, or way to reset your master password. **Do not forget your master password!**
- **Strong:** A longer, more complex, and less common password is the best way to protect your account. Bitwarden provides a free [password strength testing tool](#) to test the strength of some memorable passwords you are considering.

Master passwords made after the [2023.3.0 release](#) must be at least 12 characters.

### Tip

Worried about forgetting your master password? Here is what to do:

- **Setup a hint.** In case you need a reminder, a master password hint email can be requested on the login screen. Make sure you use a hint that only you will understand.
- **Designate a [trusted emergency contact](#).** Users with premium access can grant account access to a friend or family member in the case of emergency.

## Change master password

If you know your current master password, you can change it from the web vault:

### Note

If you do not know your current master password, [learn what to do](#).

1. In the web app, select the **Settings** → **Security** from the navigation:
2. Select the **Master password** tab:

The screenshot shows the Bitwarden web interface. On the left is a dark blue sidebar with navigation options: Password Manager, Vaults, Send, Tools, Reports, Settings, My account, Security (highlighted), Preferences, Domain rules, Emergency access, and Free Bitwarden Famili... At the top right of the main content area, there is a 'Security' header, a grid icon, and a 'BW' profile icon. Below the header are three tabs: 'Master password' (selected), 'Two-step login', and 'Keys'. The main heading is 'Change master password'. A yellow warning box states: 'Warning: Proceeding will log you out of your current session, requiring you to log back in. Active sessions on other devices may continue to remain active for up to one hour.' Below this are three input fields: 'Current master password', 'New master password', and 'Confirm new master password'. An important note reads: 'Important: Your master password cannot be recovered if you forget it! 12 character minimum'. There are two checkboxes: 'Check known data breaches for this password' (checked) and 'Also rotate my account's encryption key' (unchecked). Below these is a 'New master password hint (optional)' input field. A blue 'Change master password' button is at the bottom. At the very bottom, there is a 'Log in with passkey' section with 'Off' and 'Beta' buttons.

Master password settings

3. Enter your **Current master password**.
4. Enter and confirm your **New master password**.
5. If you want to check your master password through HIBP before submitting it, check the **Check known data breaches for the password** ([learn more](#)) box. To run this report, a hash of your master password is sent to HIBP and compared to stored exposed hashes. Your master password itself is never exposed by Bitwarden.

**Warning**

Don't check the **rotate account's encryption key** box unless you fully understand the ramifications and required follow-up actions. [Learn more](#).

6. Select the **Change master password** button.

Changing your master password will automatically log you out of the web vault session. Other logged-in apps may remain active for up to an hour, but will eventually also require you to log back in with your new master password.

## I forgot my master password

Learn what to do if you [forget your master password](#).

## Additional login options

Your master password is a requirement for setting up your Bitwarden account. Depending on how you or your organization interact with Bitwarden, additional options are available for accessing your Bitwarden account.

Method	Description
Log in with device	Login with device is an option to utilize a trusted secondary device that can send authentication requests to Bitwarden. Learn more about login with device <a href="#">here</a> .
Log in with SSO	Bitwarden users who are part of an organization that utilizes login with single sign-on(SSO) can login leveraging an existing identity provider, that will authenticate the user. Learn more about login with SSO <a href="#">here</a> .
Log in with passkeys (beta)	Passkeys can be used to log in to Bitwarden as an alternative to using your master password and email, and some passkeys can be used for vault encryption and decryption. Learn more <a href="#">here</a> .
Unlock with biometrics and unlock with PIN	Using unlock with biometrics or PIN is not an alternative login method, however, this feature can allow you to access a locked account with system biometrics or a PIN instead of a master password. Learn more about <a href="#">unlock with biometrics</a> and <a href="#">unlock with PIN</a> .

## Next steps

Now that you have created a **memorable** and **strong** master password, we recommend:

- [Further securing your account with two-step login](#)
- [Enabling emergency access](#) (requires premium)