bitwarden | Help Center Article

MY ACCOUNT > TWO-STEP LOGIN

Recovery Codes

View in the help center:
https://bitwarden.com/help/two-step-recovery-code/

Recovery Codes

If you enable any two-step login methods, it's important to understand that losing access to your secondary device(s) (for example, a mobile device with an installed authenticator, a security key, or a linked email inbox) has the potential to lock you out of your Bitwarden vault.

To protect against this, Bitwarden generates a **recovery code** that can be used with your master password to disable any enabled two-step login methods from outside your vault.

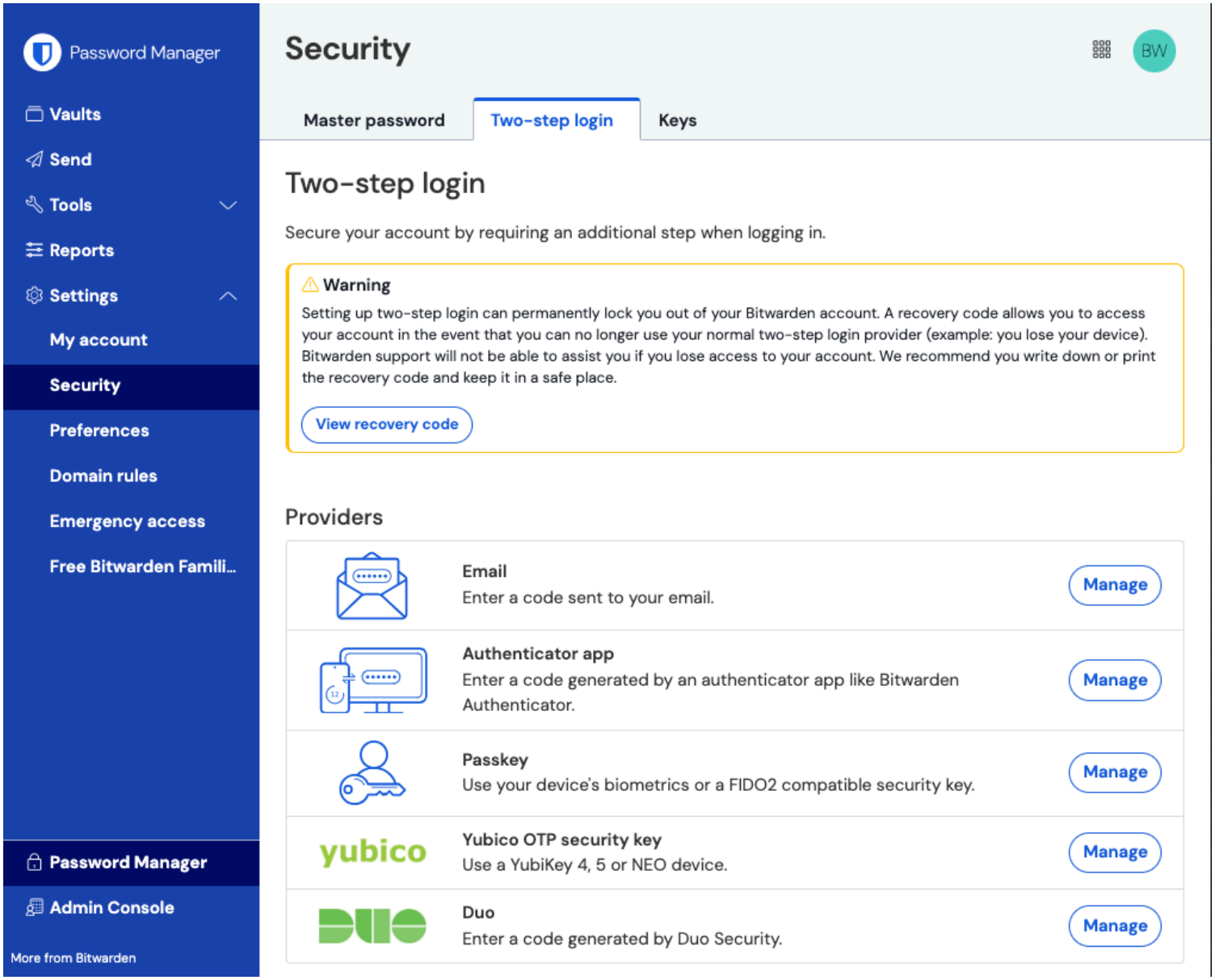
> **Tip**
>
> You should get your recovery code immediately after enabling any two-step login method. Additionally, get a new recovery code every time you use it, as it will change with each use.

In addition to securing recovery codes, users may wish to create an export to backup vault data prior to enabling two-factor authentication.

Get your recovery code

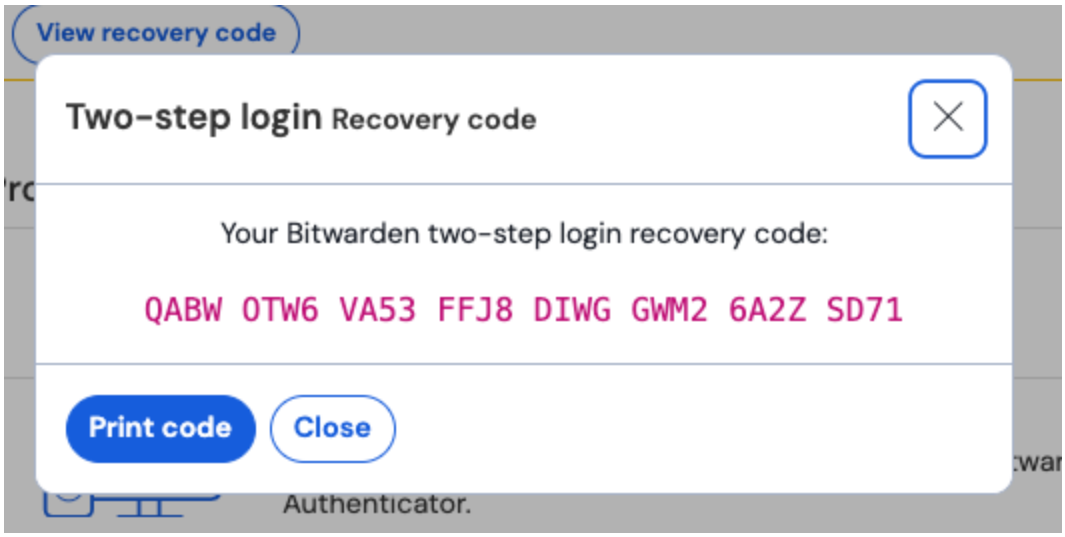
To get your recovery code:

1. Log in to the Bitwarden web app.
2. Select the **Settings** → **Security** → **Two-step login** from the navigation:



Two-step login

3. Select the **View recovery code** button near the top of the screen. You will be prompted to enter your master password, which will open a recovery code panel:



Sample Recovery Code

Save your recovery code in the way that makes the most sense for you. Believe it or not, printing your code and keeping it somewhere safe is one of the best ways to ensure that the code isn't vulnerable to theft or inadvertent deletion.

> ⓘ **Note**
>
> **When does a recovery code change?**
>
> Neither disabling and re-enabling two-step login, nor changing your master password will change your recovery code. Your recovery code will only change when you use it. After you use a recovery code, immediately get a new one and save it in the way that makes the most sense for you.

Use your recovery code

To use your recovery code, navigate to https://vault.bitwarden.com/#/recover-2fa/, https://vault.bitwarden.eu/#/recover-2fa/,or, if you are self-hosting, https://your.domain.com/#/recover-2fa/.

Using your recovery code is like the normal login procedure, requiring your (i) email address, (ii) master password, and (iii) recovery code. On successful authentication of all three, you will be logged in to your vault and **all two-step login methods will be disabled**.

Once used, get a new recovery code, as it will change with each use. You should also at this point re-enable any two-step login methods you want to use in the future.

> ⓘ **Note**
>
> Recovery codes will not disable Duo for organizations. If you are locked out of your vault by an organizational Duo prompt, reach out to the Duo administrator at your company for help bypassing the prompt.
>
> If you're not sure whether the Duo prompt is setup personally or by your organization, try using the **Use another two-step login method** button.