

# What is a Hardware Wallet?

A crypto hardware wallet is a physical device that stores the private keys used to access your cryptocurrency offline.

These devices typically look like USB sticks or key fobs and can be thought of as portable pocket vaults that digitally store the important information needed to access your crypto funds.

Cold wallets are completely offline and only connect to the internet if and when the owner chooses to move funds onto or off of the device. No third-party trust is required. You remain solely in control of your funds in a hardware wallet, meaning you have 100% access to your funds at all times no matter what happens in the market.

To add or remove cryptocurrencies from your hardware wallet, you have to plug it into a computer or laptop and connect it to a hot wallet or exchange.