

How to Turn on Google 2-Step Verification

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1. Go to Settings: Open a web browser, go to myaccount.google.com, and sign in to your Google Account.

2. Open Security: Click on Security (found in the left-hand menu on a computer, or in the top horizontal menu on a phone).

3. Find 2-Step Verification: Scroll down to the "How you sign in to Google" section. Click on 2-Step Verification and then click the blue Get Started button.

4. Choose your MFA method: Google will show you your options. Choose the one that works best for you:

- Google Prompts (Recommended): A simple "Is this you?" notification pops up on your phone. You just tap Yes.
- Authenticator App: You link an app like Google Authenticator or Authy, which generates a new 6-digit code every 30 seconds.
- Text Message (SMS): Google texts a 6-digit code to your phone number whenever you log in.
- Security Key: A physical USB or Bluetooth key you plug into your device to verify it's you.

Pick your preferred option, follow the quick setup prompts for it, and click Turn On.

⚠ Important: After turning it on, make sure to scroll down to the bottom of that same page and click Backup codes. Print or write these down! If you ever lose your phone, these codes are the only way to avoid getting permanently locked out of your account.

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