LOGINS AND PASSWORDS · CHECKLIST

# 2 Lock the front door

From the lesson: The front door: how passwords really get stolen

Start at the top. Email first, because it can reset every other password.

THE PATTERN

- Robots guess common passwords on public login pages.
- Leaked passwords from other sites get tried on yours (re-use).
- Malware copies saved passwords from your browser (lesson 5).

HOW TO SPOT IT

- "New sign-in" or "password changed" emails you didn't expect.
- Reset codes arriving by text or email that you didn't ask for.
- An admin user on your website you don't recognise.
- Being logged out of an account for no reason.

TICK AS YOU GO

- [ ] **Two-step login on your email**
  Gmail and Google Workspace: myaccount.google.com/security. Outlook and Microsoft 365: account.microsoft.com/security.
- [ ] **Two-step login on your domain account**
  Wherever you bought your web address: GoDaddy, Namecheap, Crazy Domains, 123 Reg and so on. Look under Account, then Security.
- [ ] **Two-step login on your hosting and website**
  Wix, Squarespace and Shopify have it in account settings. WordPress needs a two-step plugin or your host's login protection.
- [ ] **Use an authenticator app where you can**
  Google Authenticator, Microsoft Authenticator or your password manager. Codes by text message are better than nothing.
- [ ] **Set up a password manager**
  Apple Passwords, Google Password Manager, 1Password or Bitwarden. Let it create a new password for each account.
- [ ] **Change any password you've used twice**
  Start with email, domain, hosting and website. Your password manager can show you re-used ones.
- [ ] **Check who can log in to your website**
  Remove past staff, old agencies and anyone you don't recognise. Give everyone else the lowest access that works.

REMEMBER

If an unexpected login email arrives, don't click its link. Go to the account yourself and check.

**99%+** reduction in account takeover risk with two-step login switched on (Microsoft Research).



hedgehog.site · © 2026 Hedgehog Site Limited