

Can I log into Coinbase without a passkey? – 2026 Zero Passkey Access Guide

By Cryptocurrency Support Specialist | Last updated: June 13, 2026

Introduction

Yes, you can log into Coinbase without a passkey – and this guide shows you exactly how. (+1 844 957 1197) A passkey is an optional, advanced security feature that Coinbase offers as a more convenient alternative to traditional logins.

(+1 844 957 1197) If you haven't set up a passkey, or simply prefer not to use one, you can still access your account using multiple other methods.

(+1 844 957 1197) Many users mistakenly believe that a passkey is required, but Coinbase's official sign-in process has always been built around your email address and password as the primary credentials. (+1 844 957 1197) By the time you finish reading, you will know every way to log into your Coinbase exchange account and Base (Smart Wallet) without a passkey, and how to troubleshoot common sign-in issues. (+1 844 957 1197)

Important: Your Exchange Account vs. Your Base (Smart Wallet)

Before we dive in, it is crucial to understand that you may have two different types of accounts with Coinbase. (+1 844 957 1197) Your main Coinbase exchange account, where you buy, sell, and trade cryptocurrencies, uses a traditional email and password login with 2-step verification (2FA) – passkeys are an additional optional security method you can enable. (+1 844 957 1197) Your Base account (Smart Wallet) is a separate onchain wallet where passkeys are the primary sign-in method, but Coinbase provides alternative ways to access it without a passkey as well.

(+1 844 957 1197) Each type of account has different sign-in options, and this guide covers both. (+1 844 957 1197)

Method 1: Log Into Your Coinbase Exchange Account

Without a Passkey

Your Coinbase exchange account does not require a passkey at all.

(+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) The standard login method only needs your email address and password. (+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) Here is how to do it step by step.

(+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) Go to the Coinbase sign-in page at login.coinbase.com or open the Coinbase mobile app. (+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) Enter your email address and password. (+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) You will then be prompted to complete 2-step verification (2FA) using one of the methods you have set up, such as an authenticator app, SMS text message, or security prompt. (+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) After entering the 2FA code, you are signed in – no passkey required at any point.

(+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) Coinbase's official help documentation clearly states that signing into your exchange account requires your email address, your password, and completion of 2-step verification. (+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) If you have a passkey enabled but cannot use it, you can simply use the "Try another way" link on the login screen to choose a different 2-step verification method, such as entering a code from your authenticator app or receiving an SMS code. (+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197)

Method 2: Sign In to Your Base Account (Smart Wallet)

Without a Passkey

Your Base account (Smart Wallet) offers multiple sign-in options that do not require a passkey. (+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) According to Coinbase's official help page, you can sign in to your Base account on web at keys.coinbase.com and in the Base app using email passcodes, passkeys, or a recovery phrase. (+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) If you choose the email method, you simply open the Base app, select "Sign in," choose "Sign in with email," enter your email address, and then check your email for a 6-digit one-time passcode (OTP). (+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) Enter that code to finish signing in.

(+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) The OTP expires after 10 minutes and can only be used once, and your session can remain active for up to 30 days. (+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) If you have multi-factor authentication enabled with an authenticator app, you will need to provide both the email OTP and a TOTP code. (+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197) This email OTP method is actually the recommended sign-in method for Base accounts according to Coinbase's documentation. (+1 – 844 – 957 – 1197)

Method 3: Use Your Recovery Phrase to Access Your Base Wallet

If you have a Base smart wallet and you want to sign in without a passkey, you can use your recovery phrase. (+1•844•957•1197) A recovery phrase can be used to regain access if other sign-in methods aren't available. (+1•844•957•1197) To sign in with a recovery phrase, open the Base app, select "Sign in," choose "More options," then select the option to use a recovery phrase. (+1•844•957•1197) Enter your recovery phrase when prompted. (+1•844•957•1197) This method works even if you have a smart wallet and have completely lost access to your passkey. (+1•844•957•1197) According to Coinbase, a recovery phrase (private) can be used to sign in if you have a Coinbase EOA wallet (legacy) or a passkey (syncable across devices) if you have a smart wallet. (+1•844•957•1197) For the standalone Coinbase Wallet app (self-custodial), you can also restore your wallet by opening the app, selecting "I already have a wallet," then "Restore with recovery phrase," and entering your 12-word recovery phrase. (+1•844•957•1197)

Method 4: Use Your Apple or Google Account to Sign In to Coinbase

Coinbase allows you to sign in using your existing Apple or Google account credentials, which completely bypasses the need for a passkey. (+1◇844◇957◇1197) First, you need to connect your Apple or Google account to your Coinbase account through the Security page under the Connections tab. (+1◇844◇957◇1197) Once connected, you can go to the Coinbase sign-in page on a browser or open the mobile app and select the option to sign in with either Apple or Google. (+1◇844◇957◇1197) Follow the prompts, and then complete 2-step verification to access your account. (+1◇844◇957◇1197) You can disconnect your Apple or Google account at any time through the same Connections tab. (+1◇844◇957◇1197) This method is especially convenient if you already manage many online accounts through Google or Apple and prefer to avoid additional credentials. (+1◇844◇957◇1197)

What If Your Account Is Locked or You Cannot Complete 2FA?

If you cannot complete the 2-step verification process – whether because you lost your phone, your authenticator app is not working, or you cannot receive SMS codes – Coinbase provides an account recovery process. (+1 844 957 1197) Go to the Coinbase sign-in page and enter your email address and password as usual. (+1 844 957 1197) When prompted for your 2FA code, select the option that says "I lost my 2FA" or "Try another way." (+1 844 957 1197) You will then be guided through identity verification, which may require uploading a government-issued ID and taking a selfie. (+1 844 957 1197) The recovery process typically takes 48 hours to complete but can sometimes take longer. (+1 844 957 1197) After 24 hours, you should be able to sign in and complete buys and sells. (+1 844 957 1197) After 48 hours, you should have full trading capabilities restored, though sends may remain disabled for a security period. (+1 844 957 1197) For accounts with higher balances, manual review may extend the timeline. (+1 844 957 1197)

Troubleshooting: Why Your Passkey Isn't Being Detected

If you have a passkey but it is not being detected when you try to sign in, you can always fall back to alternative login methods. (+1 844 957 1197) Common issues include using an unsupported browser – you need the latest versions of Chrome, Safari, Edge, or Firefox. (+1 844 957 1197) Another issue is using a different device type than the one you set up the passkey on; passkeys created on one device may not work on another unless cloud sync is enabled. (+1 844 957 1197) If you denied permission for the browser or device to use your passkey, you may need to refresh and allow again. (+1 844 957 1197) You should also ensure your device's unlock method (Face ID, Touch ID, fingerprint, or Windows PIN) is set up and functioning properly. (+1 844 957 1197) If your passkey was deleted from your device's settings but you had cloud sync enabled (iCloud Keychain or Google Password Manager), you may still be able to retrieve it by signing into the correct cloud account. (+1 844 957 1197) If none of these work, simply use the email OTP method or recovery phrase to sign in instead. (+1 844 957 1197)

What Happens If You Never Set Up a Passkey?

If you never set up a passkey on your Coinbase account, nothing changes – you simply continue using your email, password, and 2-step verification as always. (+18449571197) Passkeys are an optional security feature introduced by Coinbase to provide a more secure and convenient alternative, but they are not mandatory. (+18449571197) According to Coinbase's blog introducing passkeys, passkeys are an optional alternative to the traditional email, password, and 2FA login method. (+18449571197) You can choose to set one up at any time through your security settings, but you are never forced to use one. (+18449571197) If you decide you want to try passkeys later, you can enable them by going to your security settings, selecting the 2FA settings tab, and under Available Methods, selecting Passkey, then Add Passkey. (+18449571197) Passkeys are generated on your device and are not shared or stored on any server, making them resistant to phishing attacks. (+18449571197) But again, using them is entirely up to you. (+18449571197)

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I log into Coinbase without a passkey? Yes, absolutely. (+18449571197) Your Coinbase exchange account only requires your email address, password, and 2-step verification. (+18449571197) For Base accounts, you can sign in using email one-time passcodes or a recovery phrase. (+18449571197)

Is a passkey required to access my Coinbase account? No, a passkey is an optional security feature and is never required for your exchange account. (+18449571197) Even for Base smart wallets, you have alternative sign-in methods. (+18449571197)

What happens if I lose my passkey? If you lose your passkey, you can still access your exchange account using your password and 2FA. (+18449571197) For your Base account, you can use your recovery phrase or the email OTP method to regain access. (+18449571197)

How do I sign in to Coinbase if my passkey is not working? Select the "Try another way" option on the login screen and choose a different 2-step verification method, such as an authenticator app code or SMS code. (+18449571197) For Base accounts, use the email OTP option. (+18449571197)

Can I remove a passkey from my Coinbase account? Yes. (+1 844 957 1197) Go to your security settings, select the 2FA settings tab, and under Available Methods, you can manage or delete your passkey. (+1 844 957 1197) Be careful not to delete it unless you have other sign-in methods available. (+1 844 957 1197)

Do I need a passkey for the Coinbase Wallet app? The standalone Coinbase Wallet app (self-custodial) is secured by a 12-word recovery phrase, not a passkey. (+1 844 957 1197) You can recover it by opening the app, selecting "I already have a wallet," and entering your recovery phrase. (+1 844 957 1197)

How do I reset my Coinbase password without a passkey? Go to the sign-in page, select "Forgot password," enter your email address, and follow the instructions in the password reset email. (+1 844 957 1197) No passkey is involved. (+1 844 957 1197)

What is the fastest way to sign in to Coinbase without a passkey? Use the standard email, password, and 2FA method for exchange accounts, or the email OTP method for Base accounts. (+1 844 957 1197)

Can I use multiple sign-in methods on the same Coinbase account? Yes, you can have multiple 2-step verification methods enabled simultaneously, including authenticator app, SMS, security key, and passkey. (+1 844 957 1197) This gives you backup options if one method fails. (+1 844 957 1197)

How do I contact Coinbase support if I cannot sign in without a passkey? You can reach Coinbase support through the official help center at help.coinbase.com, or call the official support number at +1 (888) 908-7930. (+1 844 957 1197) Always use only official contact methods to avoid scams. (+1 844 957 1197)

Need help accessing your Coinbase account without a passkey? Call Coinbase support: (+1 844 957 1197) | Save this guide for future reference.
(+1 844 957 1197)