

Revoking Token Approvals to Stay Safe in Web3

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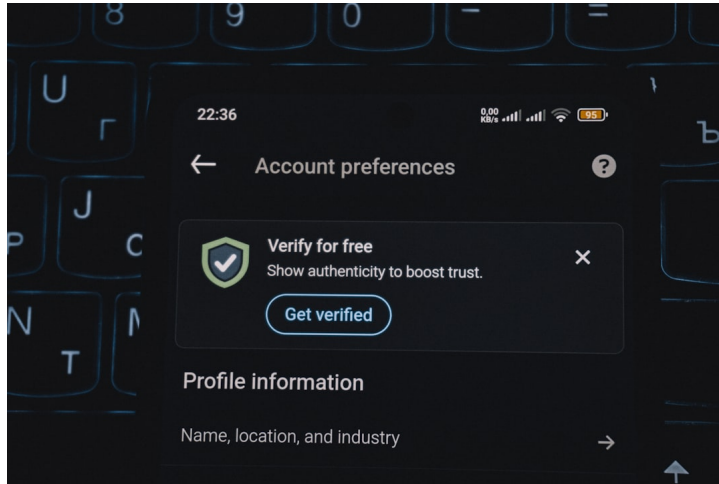


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When you interact with a decentralized application, you often sign a transaction that grants that application permission to spend tokens from your wallet. These permissions, called token approvals, remain active indefinitely unless you explicitly cancel them. Many users approve token access once and forget about it, leaving a growing list of permissions attached to their address — each one a potential entry point for exploitation.

How Token Approvals Work

Token approvals follow the ERC-20 and ERC-721 standards on Ethereum and compatible chains. When you approve a decentralized exchange to spend your USDC, for example, you are calling the `approve` function on the token's smart contract, specifying a spender address and an allowance amount. Some protocols request an unlimited allowance to avoid asking for repeated approvals, which is convenient but means the protocol can theoretically move all of your tokens at any time.

NFT approvals work similarly. Calling `setApprovalForAll` on an NFT contract grants a spender full control over every token in that collection held by your wallet. This is commonly requested by NFT marketplaces and is a frequent target in phishing attacks.

The Real Risks of Stale Approvals

The danger is not limited to reputable protocols turning malicious. A smart contract can contain an undiscovered vulnerability. If an attacker exploits a bug in a protocol you approved months ago, they can drain the approved tokens directly from your wallet without any further action on your part. This happened in several high-profile incidents, including exploits targeting cross-chain bridges and lending protocols where user approvals were leveraged to extract funds long after users had stopped using the platform.

Phishing sites also exploit approvals aggressively. A convincing fake website can trick a user into signing an approval for a malicious contract address. The approval costs little gas and looks routine, but it gives the attacker a standing right to transfer tokens whenever they choose.

How to Revoke Approvals

Several tools allow you to audit and revoke approvals without interacting directly with contract functions. Revoke.cash is a widely used open-source tool that reads all active approvals associated with a wallet address across multiple networks, including Ethereum, Polygon, Arbitrum, and BNB Chain. Etherscan also offers an approval checker under its token tools section. Some wallets, including Rabby, display active approvals and let users revoke them from within the interface.

Revoking an approval requires sending a transaction that sets the allowance back to zero. This costs gas but is typically inexpensive. For `setApprovalForAll` permissions on NFT contracts, the revocation transaction sets the approval status to false.

Building a Safer Approval Habit

A practical approach is to audit your approvals every one to two months and revoke any that belong to protocols you no longer use. When connecting to a new protocol, prefer approving only the specific amount needed rather than an unlimited allowance. Hardware wallets display approval details clearly and add friction that makes accidental approvals less likely.

Token approvals are a fundamental mechanic of DeFi and NFT platforms, but treating them as permanent and invisible creates unnecessary exposure. Regular review and selective revocation significantly reduce the attack surface of any wallet.

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BIP39 WORD SEQUENCES

Below is a set of 56 randomly generated 12-word mnemonic sequences built from the official BIP39 wordlist.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) story seek siren blood bright
decline prosper scan then protect
work deer | 2) shaft online remove topple chaos
flavor work oak artist multiply try
region |
| 3) clap rural frequent blue upgrade
fossil sheriff catch bus embrace
method allow | 4) success future effort exercise
sponsor faint typical goddess code
since blade push |
| 5) country reunion main gesture
parrot group truck minimum follow
mail reunion explain | 6) monster earth scare stool teach
child swarm return relax club shoot
issue |
| 7) runway advice artist host pole
jacket unable voyage rotate oil
broken mistake | 8) cannon nephew steel mountain
hedgehog hundred orient dignity rough
material door tissue |
| 9) session razor neutral inquiry
turtle deposit example ignore level
fantasy abuse off | 10) mouse window moon cool rate
banana defy video hurt dizzy since
drink |
| 11) student biology detail demise
cheap chronic face leaf roof bracket
add estate | 12) pole cruel focus wife install
patrol goose doll often monster camp
rely |
| 13) holiday install fly fuel load
junk repeat civil tooth patrol
because sphere | 14) warrior famous coffee diet track
fuel book chronic nominee borrow
lunar loop |
| 15) coast garden dove size leisure
square ocean black quote system avoid
veteran | 16) slice loan poem leg sentence
kitten mandate chalk street alcohol
wing law |
| 17) outdoor abuse battle unfair
kangaroo robust outside point hub
thank gasp aerobic | 18) neither panic youth north speak
there evolve sketch destroy insect
baby awake |
| 19) gadget tent salmon educate verify
quarter wine neutral digital vote
rose clean | 20) add person beach measure gadget
cereal orchard ankle ask spray north
easy |
| 21) soap fan swing praise when goose
network spice regular fatal omit
ready | 22) river check infant radio pattern
scare fuel rally scatter ketchup
ceiling appear |
| 23) sadness inch juice way virtual
program accuse sadness carpet afraid
jelly reunion | 24) save diary mimic twelve dream
distance balance poem live concert
remind certain |
| 25) inmate escape despair wise knock
rural scare syrup walk siege unhappy
believe | 26) shaft found unveil income brother
immense anchor deny rule garbage
result test |

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BIP39 WORD SEQUENCES

27) battle rare alarm daring hammer
label evidence expect foam mushroom
since story

29) jar edge street soccer comfort
ignore cabin wage abandon witness
clap exotic

31) beach palm enact upon tail profit
lion chat dumb badge paddle kitten

33) tone chunk puppy oppose recall
snow other fish dance leaf catalog
tomorrow

35) vendor limit file original age
steel sample eye oven coach parrot
course

37) man small cement extend night
inform harvest fringe only shoot
canoe found

39) inner pact speak thumb blame
length remind woman improve wheel
chronic barrel

41) prefer pepper lounge code leisure
manage improve frown nurse food
orphan scene

43) surprise defense fringe mail
attract valley desert saddle decade
funny animal chef

45) enough assist monkey web general
express lonely laptop jungle economy
address clown

47) visit raven quality immune prison
dragon orient elegant grid vague
cheese civil

49) mandate series cluster train
spring huge dismiss debate invite
excess cheap kingdom

51) scissors note camera game mystery
tell manual dash banana rural perfect
type

53) cannon element sudden camera
brisk cream sketch oyster rival glare
various cook

28) entry segment resource reunion
choice web keen ice round lunch spoil
maze

30) phrase north never beach oppose
tackle hint skull art sail vapor
until

32) regret relax recipe level radar
wet struggle fatigue balcony across
gain dune

34) success emotion fine toy bus
nominee outside gossip erupt dial
garbage lift

36) airport unusual apology teach
swarm cigar soup success battle
father come parent

38) note coconut engage dilemma ankle
aim else place witness demand basic
right

40) weekend spread elite element test
armed modify rabbit fiber glow timber
denial

42) candy antenna hotel staff crash
adjust agent differ muffin engine
frog bulk

44) erode canal theory taxi vast
husband thought tattoo protect puzzle
limb kiss

46) mosquito solution hotel gloom
chaos obey cactus next address
monster train physical

48) market exotic position layer
gorilla range auction reopen speak
visa flip manage

50) ability vote speed glove rent fun
wrong naive fruit eagle leave pottery

52) believe belt fringe shell expire
ugly ten sunset hero valley fine
symptom

54) almost radar myth weather buddy
fade ranch popular rule sausage
liberty weird

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BIP39 WORD SEQUENCES

55) comfort teach pen culture lift
romance illegal offer rebuild voyage
forward tool

56) tuition bridge remain bird below
pet violin eyebrow extra warrior
april flush

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- The Rise of Play-to-Earn Crypto Games: Revolutionizing Digital Entertainment — BIP39 Seed Phrases (April 13, 2026) (2026-04-13)
- [what-is-infura-bip39-phrase_2025-11-12.pdf](#) (bip39-phrase_2025-11)
- [seed-phrases-2025-05-14-en.pdf](#) (2025-05-14)

Educational examples only. Randomly generated, not valid wallet phrases - never use them to store funds. Details: bip39-phrase.com/security/
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