Bitwarden CLI

Vault from the shell

Logged out no account → `bw login` → **Locked** data encrypted → `bw unlock` → **Unlocked** BW_SESSION set → `bw lock` → **Locked** key destroyed

CONCEPTS

Logging in is not unlocking: the vault stays encrypted until you have a session key in BW_SESSION or --session.

Session keys and master passwords on the command line end up in shell history and process lists; prefer prompts, --passwordenv or --passwordfile.

SIGN IN

bw login
Sign in with email and password

bw login --apikey
Sign in with an API key

bw login --sso
Sign in through your SSO provider

bw unlock
Unlock the vault

bw unlock --raw
Print only the session key

bw unlock --passwordenv *<VAR>*
Read master password from an env var

SIGN IN (cont.)

bw lock
Lock the vault, destroy the key

bw logout
Sign out of the account

bw status
Show login, lock and sync state

bw config server *<url>*
Point at a self-hosted server

FIND AND READ

bw list items
List all vault items as JSON

bw list items --search *<text>*
Search items

bw list items --folderid *<id>*
Items in one folder

bw list items --url *<url>*
Items matching a URL

bw list folders
List folders

bw get item *<name|id>*
Show one full item

bw get password *<name|id>*
Print the password

FIND AND READ (cont.)

bw get username *<name|id>*
Print the username

bw get totp *<name|id>*
Print the current 2FA code

bw get notes *<name|id>*
Print the notes

CREATE AND CHANGE

bw get template item
Print an item JSON template

bw encode
Base64-encode JSON from stdin

bw create item *<encodedJson>*
Create an item

bw create folder *<encodedJson>*
Create a folder

bw edit item *<id>* *<encodedJson>*
Replace an item

bw delete item *<id>*
Move an item to the trash

bw delete item *<id>* **--permanent**
Delete an item for good

CREATE AND CHANGE (cont.)

bw restore item *<id>*
Restore from the trash

GENERATE AND SYNC

bw generate
Make a password (14 chars default)

bw generate -uln --length 24
Letters and digits, 24 long

bw generate -ulns --length 24
Add special characters

bw generate --passphrase --words 5
Make a passphrase

bw sync
Pull the latest vault data

bw sync --force
Force a full sync

SEND

bw send -n "*<name>***" -d** *<days>* **--hidden "***<text>***"**
Send text, hidden by default

bw send -n "*<name>***" -d** *<days>* **-f** *<path>*
Send a file

SEND (cont.)

bw send list
List your Sends

bw send delete *<id>*
Delete a Send

bw send receive *<url>*
Open a Send by URL

BACKUP AND OPTIONS

bw export
Export the vault as CSV

bw export --format json --output *<dir>***/**
Export as JSON to a folder

bw export --format encrypted_json --password
Password-encrypted export

bw import --formats
List supported import formats

bw import *<format>* *<path>*
Import a file into the vault

bw --raw
Return plain values, not messages

bw --help
Show all commands

bw *<command>* **--help**
Help for one command