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