

Check a Token in 10 Minutes

Five checks that catch most rug pulls before you buy. No coding. A block explorer, a free scanner and ten minutes of patience before the chart gets you excited.

First, get the right address. Copy the contract address from the project's own website or its CoinGecko page, never from a Telegram message. Scammers launch copies with the same name and ticker.

☐ 1 Can you sell it? 1 MIN

Paste the address into a honeypot checker. It simulates a buy and a sell and shows the tax on each. If it passes, still buy small and sell part straight away.

Where: Honeypot.is, then a small test sell

WALK AWAY IF

The sell fails, or the tax is 10% or more. Some owners can raise it to 100% later.

☐ 2 Is the team real and reachable? 2 MIN

Find the people behind it. Look for names you can check against past work, X and Telegram accounts older than the token, and someone who answers a plain question in public. Anonymous is not automatically a scam, but it leaves you nobody to hold to account.

Where: the project's website, the age of its X account, its Telegram or Discord

WALK AWAY IF

The accounts were made this month, the team photos are stock or AI faces, or a straight question gets you muted or banned.

☐ 3 What can the owner still do? 3 MIN

Open the contract. Is the code verified, meaning published and readable? Can the owner mint tokens, blacklist wallets, pause trading or change the tax? On Solana, the mint and freeze authorities should both be revoked.

Where: Etherscan, BscScan or Solscan

WALK AWAY IF

The code is unverified, or the owner keeps those powers. "Renounced" means nothing on a proxy contract.

☐ 4 Who holds the supply? 2 MIN

Open the Holders tab. Set aside the burn address and the exchange pool, then look at the biggest real wallets.

Where: the Holders tab on the explorer

WALK AWAY IF

The top ten hold about a fifth or more, or a cluster of wallets was funded from one source in the same hour.

☐ 5 Who launched it? 2 MIN

Click through to the deployer, the wallet that created the contract. See what else it has launched and what became of those tokens.

Where: the creator wallet's history on the explorer

WALK AWAY IF

It has dead tokens behind it, or it was funded through a mixer just before launch.

FREE SCANNERS

Token Sniffer and GoPlus for Ethereum-style chains. RugCheck for Solana. DEX Screener for the pool, its age and its size. Use two, because they disagree more often than you'd expect.

WHAT NO SCANNER CATCHES

A team that passes every scan, sells slowly over three months and stops posting. For that you need the slower checks: team, treasury and real usage. They're in our Crypto Due Diligence Checklist.

One failed check is enough to walk away. **There will be another token tomorrow.** If you don't have time to run the checks, you don't have time to buy.