



Ransomware Prevention Checklist

10 things every business should have in place before an incident, not after.
Print this, pin it up, and review it once a quarter.

Why this matters: most ransomware incidents don't start with a genius hacker — they start with one missed patch, one weak password, or one backup nobody tested. This checklist closes those gaps.

- 1

☐ **Automated daily backups, kept offline or on a separate network**
If ransomware can reach your backup, it isn't a backup — it's just another encrypted drive.
- 2

☐ **Backup restore tested at least once a quarter**
"We have backups" means nothing until you've actually restored from one and confirmed it works.
- 3

☐ **Network segmentation between departments/systems**
One infected laptop in accounts shouldn't be able to reach production servers or customer data.
- 4

☐ **Multi-factor authentication on every admin and remote-access account**
Passwords leak. MFA is the single cheapest control that stops the most break-ins.
- 5

☐ **Software and OS patches applied within 30 days of release**
Most ransomware exploits vulnerabilities that already have a patch available — often for months.
- 6

☐ **Email filtering and attachment scanning turned on**
Phishing email is still the #1 way ransomware gets its first foothold.
- 7

☐ **Staff trained to recognize phishing at least twice a year**
One five-minute training session beats any firewall at stopping a human from clicking the wrong link.
- 8

☐ **A written incident response plan, agreed before you need it**
Who do you call first? Who has the authority to disconnect a server at 2am? Decide this now, not during the incident.
- 9

☐ **Least-privilege access across the team**
Employees should only be able to reach the systems and files their role actually needs.
- 10

☐ **A tested "isolate and contain" procedure**
IT should be able to disconnect an infected machine from the network in minutes, not hours.

Want a professional assessment of where your business actually stands?

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