



Money Lock Comparison: DBS, OCBC and UOB Access Rules

Description

Money-lock products reduce digital-transfer risk, but their release routes differ. DBS and OCBC support local ATM or assisted unlocking for eligible locked funds, while UOB's LockAway Account requires an in-person withdrawal at a Singapore branch. Keep bill money outside the lock. This guide is for a bank customer deciding how much emergency or long-term cash to place behind a non-digital access barrier and resolves one task: choose a locking method and preserve enough accessible cash for regular commitments and emergencies. The material claims were checked against [DBS digiVault](#) and [OCBC Money Lock FAQs](#).

Choose the route that matches your case

Situation	What to do
Money funds monthly GIRO and bills	Keep it available
Long-term buffer rarely needed same day	Consider a lock or separate locked account
You may need access while overseas	Study remote or overseas release restrictions first
You cannot reliably visit a branch or ATM	Avoid a route that depends on that channel

Compare the release route first

Security value comes from making digital release difficult. That also creates friction for the customer, so the correct product depends on mobility, travel and emergency needs. According to [DBS digiVault](#), the controlling detail for this branch is the specific rule or service condition cited here.

Write the unlock channel, required card or identification, service hours and whether a full or partial release is possible.

Keep operating cash outside

OCBC states that locked funds cannot support GIRO, scheduled or recurring payments. DBS likewise warns customers to keep enough available balance. According to [OCBC Money Lock FAQs](#), the controlling detail for this branch is the specific rule or service condition cited here.

Add one month of known bills, upcoming large payments and a reasonable contingency before deciding the lock amount.

Distinguish a feature from an account

DBS and OCBC can lock amounts in eligible existing accounts. UOB LockAway is a separate account whose funds are withdrawn in person at a Singapore branch. According to [UOB LockAway Account](#), the controlling detail for this branch is the specific rule or service condition cited here.

The different architecture changes statements, interest mechanics, access and estate administration.

Prepare the authentication tools

DBS and OCBC local ATM release needs the applicable card and security checks. A lost card or forgotten PIN can turn an emergency into a branch visit. According to [DBS digiVault](#), the controlling detail for this branch is the specific rule or service condition cited here.

Test card validity and store hotline details without storing a PIN.

Do not call it complete scam protection

A money lock blocks specified digital access to the locked balance. It does not reverse a transfer already made, protect accessible funds or stop every fraud route. According to [OCBC Money Lock FAQs](#), the controlling detail for this branch is the specific rule or service condition cited here.

Use transaction alerts, device security, payment limits and a family verification habit alongside the lock.

Review after cash-flow changes

A new mortgage, school fee or tax payment can make yesterday's safe locked amount too high. According to [UOB LockAway Account](#), the controlling detail for this branch is the specific rule or service condition cited here.

Set a quarterly review and an event-triggered review before travel or major purchases.

Run the numbers or sequence

A household with S\$3,200 of monthly commitments, a S\$2,000 near-term tax payment and a S\$2,500 accessible contingency should keep at least S\$7,700 outside the lock before adding a personal buffer. This is a cash-flow model, not product advice.

The calculation or sequence above is an LBRD working example. Replace every example input with the amount, date, access condition or document from your own case. Keep the official rate or threshold beside the working so another person can reproduce the answer.

Build a verification note another person can check

Before acting, create a one-page case note headed with the task, the date checked and the person responsible. Copy only the facts that affect your decision, then attach the statement, booking, application, receipt, map record or screenshot that supplies your own input. This separates a published rule from a personal assumption. If the official page changes, keep the earlier dated record but rework the decision with the live version.

Controlling source	What to verify	What to retain
DBS digiVault	Eligible savings and fixed-deposit locking, local ATM release routes, interest and access limitations.	Record the page date, the exact rule used and the case input it governs.
OCBC Money Lock FAQs	Multiples of S\$10, GIRO and scheduled-payment exclusion, and local release routes.	Record the page date, the exact rule used and the case input it governs.
UOB LockAway Account	Separate account design, branch-only withdrawals, no minimum or fall-below fee and access limitations.	Record the page date, the exact rule used and the case input it governs.

Read the source in context, including definitions, exceptions and effective dates. A relevant page is not proof by itself: the cited passage must contain the particular rate, deadline, eligibility condition, access rule or warning used here. Where two official channels appear inconsistent, pause and ask the authority about the exact case rather than choosing the more convenient answer.

Use the guide with its limits

This guide is decision support, not personalised financial or legal advice. Protect essential spending first, use exact statements and contracts, and treat any modelled amount as an estimate until the relevant institution confirms the case-specific figure.

No interview, personal use, fresh field visit, survey result or price check is claimed unless explicitly stated. Availability, fees and procedures can change. Reopen the linked authority page immediately before payment, travel, filing or emergency use.

Before you act

1. List 60 days of payments
2. Set an emergency amount
3. Compare release channels

4. Check card and PIN readiness
5. Read interest and fee terms
6. Lock only the surplus
7. Review before travel

Mistakes that change the outcome

- Locking GIRO money
- Assuming all banks unlock the same way
- Relying on a card that has expired
- Calling locks total scam protection
- Forgetting overseas access

Continue with the relevant LBRD guide

Next, [strengthen scam verification habits](#). You can also [understand deposit-protection planning](#).

Questions readers ask

Do locked funds earn interest?

The bank pages state that eligible locked funds continue under the applicable account interest terms.

Can scheduled payments use locked money?

OCBC says no, and DBS warns customers to preserve accessible funds.

Which is safest?

The best fit depends on the customer's access needs and ability to use the specified release channel.

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