



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.

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. Write the unlock channel, required card or identification, service hours and whether a full or partial release is possible. ([DBS digiVault](#))

OCBC states that locked funds cannot support GIRO, scheduled or recurring payments. DBS likewise warns customers to keep enough available balance. Add one month of known bills, upcoming large payments and a reasonable contingency before deciding the lock amount.

Situation	What changes
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

Related: [strengthen scam verification habits](#)

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 UOB LockAway is a separate account whose funds are withdrawn in person at a Singapore branch. The different architecture changes statements, interest mechanics, access and estate administration. ([OCBC Money Lock FAQs](#))

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

Example: 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.

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

A new mortgage, school fee or tax payment can make yesterday's safe locked amount too high. Set a quarterly review and an event-triggered review before travel or major purchases.

Related: [understand deposit-protection planning](#)

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