



THE #1 TREASURY-GRADE VAULT TO KEEP YOUR GOLD SAFE FROM US GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE ORDERS

BY TED BAUMANN



THE ESCAPE AMERICA ACTION PLAN

The #1 Treasury-Grade Vault to Keep Your Gold Safe from US Government Executive Orders

A Global Citizen Report

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Introduction

You're probably familiar with the idea of a diversified portfolio. Owning lots of different companies in different sectors so that if some areas of the market get hit—others will keep their value or even go up. That will preserve your wealth.

That's the essence of diversification... but diversification can go way beyond the stock market.

Many people don't consider two other aspects of diversification, which I like to focus on:

1. Owning other assets (such as hard assets) so you're not just relying on financial markets, and
2. Being geographically diversified... In other words, not keeping all your assets in one country.

Let's say you're a collector and have valuable things in a high-quality safe at home. You've got rare baseball cards, stamps, coins, and so on. They're worth a lot, so they're assets.

You may think you're diversified—you've kept a portion of your wealth outside of stocks.

But those things are all in one place.

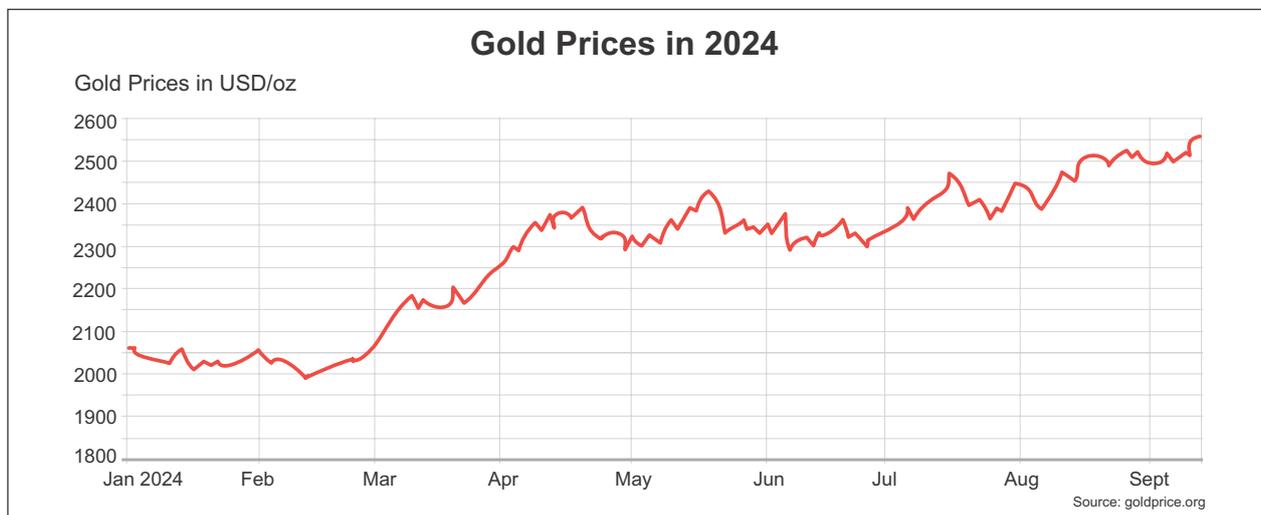
If something should happen to that safe, everything is gone. Your assets aren't diversified *geographically*.

The same applies to any type of wealth. Think about owning real estate in multiple countries. If one market goes down, others will maintain their value or even go up.

Real estate is a big-ticket item. But if your goal is to put some of your wealth abroad in the quickest, easiest, and cheapest way, nothing beats offshore gold storage.

Gold has been the ultimate store of wealth throughout recorded history. It's the ideal hedge against inflation, since its price tends to go up as the dollar falls. It's "inversely correlated" to most financial assets, meaning it rises when others fall. It shoots up fast when there's a lot of uncertainty in the world.

Case in point: The price of gold rose 25% over the course of 2024...



So why shouldn't you just buy some gold and keep it at home, or in a local bank vault?

There are a couple of good reasons. First, there is historical precedent for the US government to confiscate private gold holdings by executive order. It happened in the 1930s, in the Great Depression. Second, in a crisis, it might be impossible to take your gold out of the country, or even to convert it into cash.

For those reasons, many people choose to keep gold in private foreign vaults. Countries like Switzerland, Singapore, Austria, New Zealand, and the Cayman Islands boast sophisticated high-security vaults. They're insured by the world's top companies.

Best of all, they double as precious metals brokers, so you can buy gold from them and store it in their vaults without having to go overseas yourself.

And there's another little-known advantage to storing gold in a foreign vault...

Under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), US taxpayers must report the value of all their financial holdings and accounts outside the US. If you store gold in a bank vault or safety deposit box, that's considered a financial account, and you must tell Uncle Sam.

But if you keep it in a private vault and own gold bars or coins in your own name—you don't have to tell anyone about it.

Read on to get my number-one recommendation for a treasury-grade vault to keep your gold safe overseas...



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Ted Baumann is *International Living's* Chief Global Diversification Expert, focused on strategies to expand your investments, lower your taxes, and preserve your wealth.

The Right Way to Buy Gold... and How to Keep Your Gold Overseas (Without Ever Leaving Home)



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Buying gold online and storing it overseas provides you with an extra level of privacy.

Let's get one thing clear... If you're acquiring gold as a hedge against inflation and investment, you want bullion. (The same applies to other precious metals like silver and platinum.) "Bullion" refers to a precious metal that's been refined to a high state of purity. It can take the form of bars, wafers, plain rounds, or minted coins.

Whatever the type, their main purpose is to be a store of value. Even minted coins with a face value in currency, such as a US Gold Eagle, are held for their intrinsic value, which derives from their weight and purity.

By contrast, "numismatic" gold or silver coins are held for their collectible value, which typically exceeds the value of their metal content. Their purity is usually less than bullion.

Although the IRS treats bullion and collectables the same when it comes to taxes—they're both considered capital assets and taxed on capital gains—you can hold bullion gold in a retirement account, but not collectible coins.

"If you're acquiring gold as a hedge against inflation and investment, you want bullion."

Where to Buy Your Gold Bullion

Many people like cryptocurrencies because they promise anonymity and ease of trade. You can buy and sell them online, and thanks to blockchain technology, you can do it anonymously.

You might think switching to gold as a hedge against inflation or potential economic trouble means giving up privacy and security. After all, if you buy more than \$10,000 worth of gold bullion in cash from a US dealer, by law they must report it to the government. (So, if you had invested \$250,000 in gold bullion bars and keep them in your home safe, the IRS would know about it).

And there's always the precedent of the 1933 law that confiscated all privately held gold in the US. Who knows what a panicking US government might do in a real pinch?

But there's a secure and more private way to buy gold... many companies sell bullion metals online. You simply log on to the merchant's website, choose the bullion you want, and pay for it.

At first blush, that doesn't sound like it solves any problems. If the company is in the US, they still must report you to the IRS. And it's still vulnerable to confiscation if it should ever come to that.

But the availability of online gold trading opens the door to a strategy many people I know have used to secure their wealth—one you can easily apply as well—all from the comfort of your own home, wherever that may be.

Keeping It: Safely, Securely, and Anonymously

The key to this strategy is to practise the kind of diversification I wrote about in the Introduction above...

Several offshore jurisdictions offer favorable legal and tax treatment to foreign investors in gold and other precious metals. In those countries, firms have emerged to offer services to people like us who want to store our wealth safely out of the prying eyes of our own government.

Typically, these companies operate ultra-secure "treasury grade" vaults. Such vaults are designed and built to the same exacting standard used by sovereign governments to store their own bullion holdings (like Fort Knox in the US).

But the crucial innovation is that many of these companies have expanded to offer gold and other precious metal brokerage facilities to foreign clients. Not only will they store your gold, they'll also sell it to you and buy it for you, should you decide to do so.

Thanks to this innovative combination, you can easily buy gold online and have it stored in a secure treasury-grade vault in a foreign jurisdiction.

“You can easily buy gold online and have it stored in a secure treasury-grade vault in a foreign jurisdiction.”

My #1 Recommendation for a Treasury-Grade Vault Overseas

One of my favorite offshore vault companies is **New Zealand Vault** (NZV), with branches in Wellington and Auckland. NZV, the country's oldest vault business, was founded in 1931. Its treasury-grade vaults are on par with those used by sovereign reserve banks, and guarded 24/7. It's fully insured by Lloyds of London.

NZV is privately owned and independent of the banking sector and government. Its corporate finances aren't mixed up with other business lines. NZV's management are all ex-senior executives from the banking industry. They're also a fully accredited broker in gold, silver, and platinum bullion, in both coin and bar form. Gold comes in various sizes, from one-ounce wafers to kilogram bars. Bullion coins include one-ounce Australian Philharmonics and Kangaroos, and Canadian Maple Leafs. All metals are quoted in US dollars.

Opening a safety-deposit box and depositing your bullion at NZV is simple. Here's how it works:

- **Step 1:** Complete [NZV's online registration](#). The account can be in your own name, or under a limited liability company (LLC), trust, or other legal vehicle, whether US-based or offshore.
- **Step 2:** Order as much bullion as you like through NZV's secure online-payment engine, by credit card or bank transfer.
- **Step 3:** Get a copy of your driver's licence AND passport or other photo ID, as well as a utility bill or bank statement with your current residential address on it. Have them notarized. If you're opening an account under the name of a an LLC or trust, you will need documentation relating to the director or trustee.
- **Step 4:** Send the original notarized copies to NZV within 30 days.

You don't have to buy gold from NZV. If you already own some, you can send it to them with the assistance of **Crowe Australasia**, which is part of the FINDEX group.

Crowe Australasia can do much more for you besides transporting existing gold holdings to Wellington. An NZV safe-deposit box can only be opened with two keys—one for the client and one for NZV. But NZV can't access the client's safety-deposit box without the client's key, and vice versa.

If you aren't in New Zealand, a local representative of Crowe Australasia will personally deposit your bullion into your box, whether it's purchased via NZV or shipped in, and confirm in writing that it's securely stored as agreed. They'll hold the key to your box in the safe custody of their own NZV box and cooperate with the company to open your box when you authorize it.

Of course, as the primary box holder you can nominate other people to have access to your safe-deposit box, such as an attorney or trustee. In the event of the death of a sole hirer of a safe-deposit box, the safe-deposit box won't be accessible to anyone other than the legal representative appointed by your estate.

NZV can help move your existing gold holdings to their vaults using the logistics department of **Scottsdale Mint**, based in Scottsdale, Arizona. They organize everything, including labels, packing instructions, and pickup.

Cost Breakdown, Insurance for Your Bullion... and a Special Arrangement

Annual storage costs are about \$135 a year for boxes holding up to 10 kilograms. For larger holdings, particularly of silver, which is more bulky relative to value, NZV has a bullion depository, the cost of which they'll quote on inquiry. There is also a small a fee each time you ask that Crowe Australasia access your box.

NZV can also cover the contents of your box under its Lloyd's of London insurance policy. Insurance is offered in bands of \$10,000, up to an unlimited amount for any one box, based on the dollar value you specify for the contents. NZV doesn't need to know what's in the boxes being insured. Alternatively, you could have your own insurer cover the contents of your box.

There's yet another advantage of dealing with NZV: Thanks to a special arrangement with the Bank of New Zealand, the company can open a bank account in your name to facilitate trading bullion in and out of your NZV account in New Zealand dollars. That's particularly useful since the New Zealand dollar price of gold has improved considerably in recent years.

Of course, that also means that you have a bank account in a foreign country, without actually having to live there yourself. That's not easy to achieve. In this case, because you're doing business in the country and have valuable assets stored there, you're welcome to establish a banking relationship.

The only requirement is that within 12 months of having opened the account, you must present yourself to a New Zealand Bank branch to confirm your identity.

Contacts

New Zealand Vault

- Web: <https://www.nzvault.co.nz/>
- Tel. +64 (4) 499 9333
- NZV's online registration: <https://www.nzvault.co.nz/international-clients/open-a-safety-deposit-box/>

Crowe Australasia

- Web: <https://www.crowe.com/au>
- Online contact form: <https://www.crowe.com/au/contact-us>

Scottsdale Mint

- Web: <https://www.scottsdalemint.com/>
- Online contact form: <https://www.scottsdalemint.com/contact-us/>