



FREE GUIDE · MAGNUM OPUS FINANCIAL

The Complete Guide to Goldbacks

Physical gold you can actually spend. What Goldbacks are, how their value works, which states have them, and where to buy and use them.

[Shop Goldbacks by State](#)

magnum-opus-financial.com

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How to use this guide. Click any chapter above to jump to it. Every [red underlined link](#) opens the matching page on magnum-opus-financial.com, including every Goldback product in the directory on the Shop by State pages.



CHAPTER 01 • THE BASICS

What Are Goldbacks?

Goldbacks are physical gold notes. Think paper currency, but the gold is the note itself. Each one holds real .9999 fine 24-karat gold in a thin, flexible layer deposited between two sheets of durable polymer. The gold is not printed on the surface or represented symbolically. It is physically there, measurable and recoverable.

Standard gold coins fill the market at the top end: a 1/10 oz American Gold Eagle is too large a purchase for someone who just wants modest gold exposure, and completely impractical for everyday transactions. Goldbacks start at the 1/4 denomination, which holds 1/4000 of a troy ounce of gold, making real gold ownership accessible at a price point most people can work with.

They are not government-issued currency and the U.S. Treasury does not back them. They work as a voluntary local exchange medium. Every active series is in our [Goldbacks by State](#) catalog.

CHAPTER 02 • MANUFACTURING

How Are Goldbacks Made?

Valaurum developed a process called Aurum technology. Gold is vaporized and deposited in precise, measured quantities onto a polymer substrate in a vacuum chamber. The result is a gold layer so thin it is translucent: hold a Goldback up to a light and you can see through it. The gold content still matches the specification printed on the note exactly.

Each denomination in each state series features original commissioned artwork, embedded directly into the note alongside the gold. Replicating Aurum technology requires specialized, expensive manufacturing equipment that is not commercially available, which is what makes counterfeiting so difficult in practice.

Real 24K Gold .9999 fine gold between protective polymer layers.	Fractional Sizes From the 1/4 Goldback up to the 100, depending on the series.	Built-In Security UV-reactive ink, serial numbers, microprinting, raised reverse image.
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CHAPTER 03 • DENOMINATIONS

Goldback Denominations Explained

Each denomination represents a specific fractional gold content measured in troy ounces. You can [shop by denomination](#) to find the size that fits your budget or collection goals.

Denomination	Gold content	Typical use
1/4 Goldback	1/4000 troy oz	Small purchases, tips
1/2 Goldback	1/2000 troy oz	Small purchases, tips
1 Goldback	1/1000 troy oz	Everyday spending
2 Goldback	1/500 troy oz	Everyday spending
5 Goldback	1/200 troy oz	Everyday spending, gifts
10 Goldback	1/100 troy oz	Larger purchases, gifts
25 Goldback	1/40 troy oz	Savings, gifts
50 Goldback	1/20 troy oz	Savings
100 Goldback	1/10 troy oz	Savings

Dollar prices move with the live gold price every day. Check current pricing on any product page or in the [denomination catalog](#).

The 1/4 and 1/2 denominations exist to make Goldbacks usable for small everyday purchases: a cup of coffee, a tip, a farmers market transaction. The 50 Goldback holds 1/20 of a troy ounce and most buyers treat it as a savings note rather than something to spend.

CHAPTER 04 • VALUE

What Are Goldbacks Worth?

A Goldback's value has two parts: the gold content and the premium. Gold content tracks the live spot price directly. The premium covers Valaurum's manufacturing costs, the commissioned artwork, and the distribution margin. Because the Aurum process is complex, Goldbacks carry a higher premium relative to gold content than government-minted coins do.

That premium sits higher than for 1 oz gold bars but well below novelty gold items. The trade-off is usability. A 1 oz bar cannot be split for a \$10 purchase. A Goldback can. For a breakdown of how the premium has tracked over time, see [are Goldbacks a good investment](#).

How much is a 50 Goldback worth?

A 50 Goldback contains 1/20 of a troy ounce of gold. Its price is that gold content at the live spot price, plus the premium. It is a physical gold savings note, not a \$50 bill equivalent. See current prices for every [50 Goldback note](#).

How much gold is in a 100 Goldback?

One hundred 1-denomination Goldbacks together hold exactly 1/10 of a troy ounce of gold. Some state series also offer a single 100 Goldback note: [Idaho](#), [Arizona](#), [Florida](#) and [Oklahoma](#). Either way, the gold content matches a 1/10 oz American Gold Eagle coin.

CHAPTER 05 • LEGAL STATUS

Are Goldbacks Legal Tender?

Goldbacks are not federal legal tender. No law requires any U.S. merchant to accept them. Several states have passed sound money and [gold legal tender laws](#) that recognize gold and silver as valid exchange for voluntary transactions within their borders, but that is different from mandatory acceptance.

Federal legal tender means creditors must accept it to settle a debt. Voluntary local currency means merchants who want to accept Goldbacks can do so legally. Utah, where Goldbacks originated, designed them specifically to align with the state Legal Tender Act. In practice, acceptance is entirely up

to the merchant, which is why the Goldback Exchange Network of participating businesses exists.

CHAPTER 06 · WHERE THEY ARE ISSUED

What States Have Goldbacks?

As of 2026, ten states have official Goldback series. Any note from any state series can be spent anywhere: the artwork is cosmetic, not geographic. A Nevada Goldback is worth the same to a merchant in Florida as a Florida Goldback.

State	Est.	Denominations
Utah	2019	1/4, 1/2, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50
Nevada	2020	1, 5, 10, 25, 50
New Hampshire	2021	1, 5, 10, 25, 50
Wyoming	2021	1, 5, 10, 25, 50
South Dakota	2022	1, 5, 10, 25, 50
Florida	2022	1/2, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100
Oklahoma	2022	1/2, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100
Arizona	2023	1/2, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100
Idaho	2023	1/4, 1/2, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100
Texas	2024	1 (additional denominations in production)

CHAPTER 07 • PRODUCT DIRECTORY

Shop Goldbacks by State

Every series and denomination we stock. Click any note to open its product page, or browse the full [Goldbacks by State](#) catalog and the [denomination catalog](#).

Utah Goldbacks

SERIES EST. 2019

- › [1 Utah Goldback](#)
- › [5 Utah Goldbacks](#)
- › [10 Utah Goldbacks](#)
- › [25 Utah Goldbacks](#)
- › [50 Utah Goldbacks](#)

Nevada Goldbacks

SERIES EST. 2020

- › [1 Nevada Goldback](#)
- › [5 Nevada Goldbacks](#)
- › [10 Nevada Goldbacks](#)
- › [25 Nevada Goldbacks](#)
- › [50 Nevada Goldbacks](#)

New Hampshire Goldbacks

SERIES EST. 2021

- › [1 New Hampshire Goldback](#)
- › [5 New Hampshire Goldbacks](#)
- › [10 New Hampshire Goldbacks](#)
- › [25 New Hampshire Goldbacks](#)
- › [50 New Hampshire Goldbacks](#)

Wyoming Goldbacks

SERIES EST. 2021

- › [1 Wyoming Goldback](#)
- › [5 Wyoming Goldbacks](#)
- › [10 Wyoming Goldbacks](#)
- › [25 Wyoming Goldbacks](#)
- › [50 Wyoming Goldbacks](#)

South Dakota Goldbacks

SERIES EST. 2022

- › [1 South Dakota Goldback](#)
- › [5 South Dakota Goldbacks](#)
- › [10 South Dakota Goldbacks](#)
- › [25 South Dakota Goldbacks](#)
- › [50 South Dakota Goldbacks](#)

Florida Goldbacks

SERIES EST. 2022

- › [1/2 Florida Goldback](#)
- › [1 Florida Goldback](#)
- › [2 Florida Goldbacks](#)
- › [5 Florida Goldbacks](#)
- › [10 Florida Goldbacks](#)
- › [25 Florida Goldbacks](#)
- › [50 Florida Goldbacks](#)
- › [100 Florida Goldbacks](#)

Oklahoma Goldbacks

SERIES EST. 2022

- › [1/2 Oklahoma Goldback](#)
- › [1 Oklahoma Goldback](#)
- › [2 Oklahoma Goldbacks](#)
- › [5 Oklahoma Goldbacks](#)
- › [10 Oklahoma Goldbacks](#)
- › [25 Oklahoma Goldbacks](#)
- › [50 Oklahoma Goldbacks](#)
- › [100 Oklahoma Goldbacks](#)

Arizona Goldbacks

SERIES EST. 2023

- › [1/2 Arizona Goldback](#)
- › [1 Arizona Goldback](#)
- › [2 Arizona Goldbacks](#)
- › [5 Arizona Goldbacks](#)
- › [10 Arizona Goldbacks](#)
- › [25 Arizona Goldbacks](#)
- › [50 Arizona Goldbacks](#)
- › [100 Arizona Goldbacks](#)

Idaho Goldbacks

SERIES EST. 2023

- › [1/4 Idaho Goldback](#)
- › [1/2 Idaho Goldback](#)
- › [1 Idaho Goldback](#)
- › [2 Idaho Goldbacks](#)
- › [5 Idaho Goldbacks](#)
- › [10 Idaho Goldbacks](#)
- › [25 Idaho Goldbacks](#)
- › [50 Idaho Goldbacks](#)
- › [100 Idaho Goldbacks](#)

Texas Goldbacks

SERIES EST. 2024

- › [1 Texas Goldback](#)

Need sleeves for your notes? See [Goldback sleeves and accessories](#).



CHAPTER 08 • INVESTING

Are Goldbacks a Good Investment?

The answer depends on what you mean by investment. If you expect Goldbacks to outperform the gold spot price over time, you will be disappointed. The premium you paid at purchase is a sunk cost from day one. If you want a way to hold physical gold in a format you can actually use, the math looks different.

Goldbacks track the gold price up and down like any other gold product. A 1 oz coin is cheaper per gram but you cannot break it. If maximum gold per dollar is the goal, a 1 oz gold bar beats Goldbacks on cost efficiency. Collectors also get a numismatic angle: some series and early editions trade above spot purely on demand. Read the full analysis in [are Goldbacks a good investment](#).

This is general information, not financial or investment advice. Talk to a licensed financial advisor about whether any precious metals product fits your situation.



CHAPTER 09 • SPENDING

Where Are Goldbacks Accepted?

More than 5,000 businesses across the United States accept Goldbacks through the Goldback Exchange Network as of 2026. Check the [where to spend Goldbacks](#) page for a directory of participating merchants near you.

Participating businesses include contractors, hardware stores, restaurants, retail shops, service providers, and farmers market vendors. Each has voluntarily agreed to accept Goldbacks at the published exchange rate for that day.

Before you try to spend one, confirm the merchant accepts Goldbacks and agree on the current exchange rate. Any Goldback from any state works everywhere in the network.



CHAPTER 10 • BUYING

How to Buy Goldbacks

Buy from an authorized distributor with real inventory and transparent pricing. Magnum Opus Financial stocks the full catalog across all active state series, available individually or in multi-pack quantities.

You can [browse by denomination](#) to compare gold content and pricing across the range. The [where to buy Goldbacks](#) guide covers what to look for in a seller: pricing transparency, authentication guarantees, and what authorized distribution actually means.

Secondary sources like eBay, Facebook Marketplace, and coin shows can offer lower prices, but you carry the authentication risk.

Start with a single note

Pick a state series you like and a small denomination. Every series holds the same gold per note.

[Shop by State](#)[Shop by Denomination](#)



CHAPTER 11 • CARE

How to Store and Care for Goldbacks

Goldbacks do not need the storage conditions silver coins require. The polymer layers protect the gold from oxidation, so tarnishing is not a concern. They can crease, though. Collectors typically use protective sleeves, and we stock [Goldback sleeves and accessories](#) in sizes for all denominations.

For long-term storage: keep them flat, away from heat and humidity, and in individual sleeves if you plan to resell or pass them on. For daily carry they hold up well in a standard wallet, though repeated folding will show wear.



CHAPTER 12 • TRUST

Are Goldbacks Legit?

Yes. Goldbacks come from Valaurum, a U.S. company founded in 2013 that holds patents on Aurum technology. Independent assay labs have verified the gold content in each denomination, and Valaurum publishes the specs.

They are not cryptocurrency and not a gold-backed paper certificate: the gold is physically in the note. The one honest caveat is the premium. You pay above spot to buy, and you will not recover that premium when you sell. If you are new to Goldbacks, read [where to buy Goldbacks](#) before you choose a seller.



CHAPTER 13 • AUTHENTICATION

How to Verify a Goldback's Authenticity

Hold the note up to a light: real Goldbacks are translucent because the gold layer is so thin. Most counterfeits would not be translucent the same way.

For a more thorough check, use a UV penlight to reveal the UV-reactive security features, and run a fingertip across the back to feel the raised reversed image. Buying from an authorized seller removes the guesswork: every Goldback we sell is sourced through authorized distribution.



CHAPTER 14 • GIFTING

Are Goldbacks a Good Gift?

Yes. Goldbacks make a gift that holds real value, for birthdays, graduations, holidays or any milestone. Smaller denominations work as stocking stuffers, while a matched set from one state series makes a collectible present.

Pair them with [protective sleeves](#) so the notes stay flat and clean, or start with a few [small denominations](#) to introduce someone to physical gold.



CHAPTER 15 • COMPARISON

Goldbacks vs. Gold Coins and Bullion

The most common comparison is Goldbacks versus the 1/10 oz American Gold Eagle. That coin holds the same gold as roughly 100 Goldbacks combined and usually sells at a lower premium over spot.

The coin wins on gold-per-dollar efficiency. The Goldback wins on usability: you can hand over a 1 Goldback for a \$10 purchase. You cannot spend 1/100 of a Gold Eagle. Against gold ETFs and futures, Goldbacks are physical gold with no counterparty risk and no fund expense ratio.

Most buyers who own Goldbacks also own standard bullion. The bars and coins handle capital efficiency. The Goldbacks cover the portion of gold they want available for transactions or gifts.



CHAPTER 16 • PHILOSOPHY

Goldbacks and the Sound Money Movement

Goldbacks grew out of the sound money movement: the effort to return to commodity-backed currency as a check on inflation and monetary expansion. The [what is sound money](#) page covers the philosophy in more depth, including why more states have been passing legislation to recognize gold and silver as legal tender.

Goldbacks are designed to keep value circulating in local economies, through participating merchants and neighbors who accept them. Whether they qualify as sound money in the strict economic sense is an active debate. For the full argument, see [are Goldbacks sound money](#).

CHAPTER 17 • QUICK ANSWERS

Frequently Asked Questions

What are Goldbacks worth?

A Goldback is worth its gold content at the live spot price plus a manufacturing and design premium. A 1 Goldback holds 1/1000 of a troy ounce of gold. Current prices are on each product page in the [denomination catalog](#).

Are Goldbacks going to be worth anything?

Goldbacks are always worth at least the melt value of the gold they contain, set by the live gold spot price. Whether they appreciate above that floor depends on collector demand and the premium market for specific series.

How much is a 50 Goldback worth?

A 50 Goldback holds 1/20 of a troy ounce of gold. Its price is that gold at the live spot price plus the premium. The "50" is its denomination number, not a dollar-bill equivalent.

How much gold is in a 100 Goldback?

A 100 Goldback holds 1/10 of a troy ounce of gold, the same content as a 1/10 oz American Gold Eagle coin. A bundle of one hundred 1-denomination notes reaches the same total.

Where can I spend Goldbacks?

At thousands of U.S. businesses in the Goldback Exchange Network, including contractors, restaurants, retail shops, and service providers. See [where to spend Goldbacks](#) and confirm acceptance before you pay.

Can Goldbacks be melted down?

Yes, a refiner can recover the gold. The melt value is well below the purchase price because you lose the manufacturing premium, the design premium, and any collector value, so melting one makes no financial sense.

How do Goldbacks work?

As a voluntary exchange medium. Both parties agree to transact at the current exchange rate, and the seller can later spend or exchange the notes with other participating businesses.

Are Goldbacks a good investment?

They are physical gold ownership, not a traditional investment: no dividends, and you pay a premium above spot. For gold you can spend or give, they make sense. For maximum gold per dollar, bars or coins are more cost-effective. More in [are Goldbacks a good investment](#).



Ready to Buy Your First Goldback?

Pick a state series, choose a denomination that fits your budget, and buy from a distributor with transparent pricing and real inventory.

[Shop Goldbacks by State](#)



[Shop by Denomination](#)



[Goldback Sleeves & Accessories](#)



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