

Everything you need to know

A complete walkthrough of Box•E — from your first item to advanced features like NFC, Bluetooth tracker links, and voice search.

1. Getting Started

Box•E is a home-inventory app that helps you keep track of everything you own — across every room, box, drawer, and shelf. The core inventory features are **free forever**; Premium unlocks cloud backup, household sharing, and Excel export.

Installation

1. Download Box•E from **Google Play**.
2. Open the app — no sign-up is required to start using it.
3. Optionally, sign in with Google or email to enable cloud backup and sharing (Premium).

The main screen

The bottom navigation bar gives you three tabs, with Settings moved to the top right of Home:

- **Home** — quick stats and recent items. Access **Settings** from the top right here.
 - **Boxes** — browse your full inventory by type in a convenient grid.
 - **Search** — pre-populated with all your items, featuring instant live filtering as you type.
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2. Adding Your First Item

1. From the **Items** tab, tap the + floating action button.
2. Pick an item type (e.g., *Box*, *Electronics*, *Tool*). If none fit, see Item Types below.
3. Fill in the visible fields. Only fields enabled for that type appear.
4. Tap **Save**. The item now appears in your inventory.

Tip: When you save a new item, Box•E automatically generates a QR code (<https://boxeapp.com/i/<id>>) so you can print or stick it on the physical item.

3. Item Types & Custom Fields

Item types are how you organise your inventory by category. Each type has its own icon and field set.

Creating a new type

1. Open **Settings** → **Item Types**.
2. Tap **Add Item Type**.
3. Enter a name, choose an icon, and toggle which fields should appear when adding/editing items of this type.
4. Drag-and-drop the fields to reorder them.
5. Tap **Save**.

Available fields

Field	Used for
Name, Brand, Model	Basic identification
Quantity, Weight, Dimensions	Physical attributes
Serial Number, UPC/Barcode	Identification & lookup
Purchase Date / Price / Source	Records & insurance
Estimated Current Value	Insurance claims
Warranty Status / Expiry	Warranty tracking
GPS & Address	Where the item lives
NFC Tag, Linked Code	Smart physical linking
Bluetooth Tracker	One-tap locating
Voice Aliases	"Hey Google, find my..."
Tags, Notes, Photos	Free-form metadata

4. Nested Items & Hierarchy

Box•E supports unlimited parent/child nesting. A TV inside a cabinet inside a living room inside a house — everything has a place.

1. When editing an item, set its **Parent** field to another item.
 2. Open the parent to see all children listed beneath it.
 3. Use breadcrumbs at the top of the detail page to navigate back up the chain.
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5. Photos & Tags

Adding photos

From the item form, tap the camera icon to take a new photo or pick from your gallery. Multiple photos per item are supported. Photos are compressed locally before saving.

Tags

Tags are short, comma-separated labels (e.g., **fragile, gift, donate**). Use them to group items across types. Tap a tag in the detail view to see every item with that tag.

6. Barcode & QR Scanning

Scanning a barcode

1. In the item form, tap the barcode icon next to **UPC/Barcode**.
2. Point the camera at the barcode. Box•E auto-fills the UPC field.

Scanning a QR code

From the home screen, tap the QR icon. Scanning a Box•E QR code (or visiting a <https://boxeapp.com/i/<id>> URL) jumps straight to that item's detail page.

Generating QR codes

Every item has its own QR code, automatically generated when saved. Open the item, tap the QR icon, then print or save the image to attach to the physical item.

7. Search & Filters

The Search tab lets you find any item across your full inventory. Box•E searches across **17 fields** including name, brand, model, serial number, address, postal code, voice aliases, and notes.

- Type any keyword to filter live as you type.
- Use the filter chips at the top to narrow by item type, tag, or location.
- Results are sorted by relevance.

8. GPS & Address Locations

For each item, you can record either GPS coordinates, a structured address, or both. The address fields shown adapt to the country.

Setting a location

1. In the item form, find the **Location** section.
2. If both GPS and Address are enabled, choose a mode: *GPS*, *Address*, or *Both*.
3. Tap **Use Current Location** to grab GPS from your device. In *Both* mode, the address fields are auto-filled from reverse geocoding.
4. **Long-press** the "Use Current Location" button to enter latitude and longitude manually.

Map preview: Once GPS is set, a small OpenStreetMap thumbnail appears. Tapping it opens Google Maps for navigation.

Country defaults

Box•E shows different address fields based on your country (set in Settings or detected from GPS). For example, the UK shows a *District* field; Japan shows a *Neighborhood* field; Germany hides the State field.

9. NFC Tags

Stick an NFC tag onto a box, drawer, or appliance and tap your phone to instantly open that item's detail page. NFC requires a device with NFC hardware (most modern Android phones).

Linking a tag to an item

1. Open the item form and find the **NFC Tag** section.
2. Tap **Read Tag ID** and hold the tag to your phone. The tag's UID is captured.
3. Tap **Save**. The tag is now linked.

Writing a URL to a tag

1. For an existing item, open the form and tap **Write Tag** in the NFC section.
2. Hold an empty NFC tag to your phone. Box•E writes the item's URL (<https://boxeapp.com/i/<id>>) to the tag.
3. Now anyone tapping the tag opens the item directly in the Box•E app.

Tip: Use NTAG213/215/216 NFC stickers — they're cheap, reliable, and writable.

10. Bluetooth Tracker Links

Link a third-party Bluetooth tracker to any item for one-tap locating. Box•E stores the tracker brand and ID, then deep-links into the manufacturer's app when you want to find the item.

Supported brands

- Apple AirTag (via Find My)
- Tile
- Chipolo
- Samsung SmartTag
- Pebblebee
- Other (manual entry only — no deep-link)

Linking a tracker

1. In the item form, find the **Bluetooth Tracker** section.
2. Choose a brand from the dropdown.
3. Enter a label (e.g., "Garage AirTag") and the tracker ID if you know it.
4. Tap **Save**.

On the item detail page, tap **Locate** to open the tracker's app. If the app isn't installed, you'll be sent to the Play Store.

11. Voice Assistants

Ask Google Assistant to find items by name or by a custom voice alias.

Using voice aliases

1. In the item form, find the **Voice Aliases** field.
2. Enter comma-separated aliases (e.g., `holiday box, christmas decorations, xmas`).
3. Make sure **Include in voice search** is enabled.
4. Save.

Asking Google

Say:

"Hey Google, find my christmas decorations on Box•E."

Google Assistant opens the item directly in Box•E.

12. Deep Links & Sharing

Every item has a unique URL. Share the URL to send a household member directly to that item.

- <https://boxeapp.com/i/42> — opens item with ID 42.
 - <boxe://i/42> — same, via custom scheme.
 - Tapping any of these on a phone with Box•E installed jumps right to the item.
 - If the app isn't installed, the URL opens a landing page with a Play Store link.
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13. Loans & Borrowing

Track who borrowed what and when it's due back.

1. Open an item, tap the menu (...), then **Lend**.
2. Enter the borrower's name, optional contact info, lend date, and expected return date.
3. Tap **Save**. The item shows a "loaned" badge in your inventory.
4. When returned, open the loan and tap **Mark Returned**.

The **Loans** page (Settings → Loans) lists all active and historical loans.

14. Archiving & Disposal

Archiving

Archive items you no longer want in your active inventory but don't want to delete. They move to **Settings** → **Archived Items** and can be restored later.

Disposal tracking

When you archive, you can also record disposal info: the disposal type (sold, donated, thrown out, gifted), date, and notes. Useful for insurance claims and decluttering records.

15. Warranty Tracking

For any item, set the warranty status (Active / Expired / N/A) and a warranty expiry period in months. Box•E shows a badge on the item card when the warranty is active and warns when it's about to expire.

16. Premium Features

Box•E Premium unlocks:

- Cloud backup & restore (including photos)
- Live sync across devices
- Household sharing & multi-household
- Excel export
- App Lock

Pricing is **\$1.99/month** or **\$14.99/year** (save 37%). Manage your subscription in your Google Play account.

17. Cloud Backup & Sync

1. Sign in with Google or email from the Settings tab.
2. Enable **Cloud Backup**. Your full inventory is uploaded to your private Firebase storage.
3. Enable **Live Sync** to keep all your devices up to date in real time.
4. To restore on a new device: install Box•E, sign in, and enable Cloud Backup. Your data downloads automatically.

Premium feature: Cloud backup & restore requires a Premium subscription.

18. Household Sharing

Share your inventory with family members.

1. Open **Settings** → **Household**.
2. Tap **Create Household** or **Join with code**.
3. Invite members by sharing the household code.
4. Members see and can edit shared items in real time.

Each member can switch between multiple households (their personal one + any shared ones) from the household selector.

Premium feature: Household sharing requires a Premium subscription.

19. Export to Excel

1. Open **Settings** → **Export**.
2. Choose item types to include (or all).
3. Optionally apply filters (active items only, by tag, by household).
4. Tap **Export**. An **.xlsx** file is generated and shared via your device's share sheet.

Premium feature: Excel export requires a Premium subscription.

20. App Lock & Security

Protect your inventory with a PIN and biometric unlock.

1. Open **Settings** → **App Lock**.
2. Enable **App Lock** and set a 4–6 digit PIN.
3. Optionally enable **Use biometrics** (fingerprint / face).

The app re-locks every time it goes to the background.

Premium feature: App Lock requires a Premium subscription.

21. Settings & Preferences

- **Theme & Accent Color** — Light, Dark, or System default, and choose between custom accent colors (Purple, Ocean Blue, Mint Teal, Vibrant Orange, Hot Pink).
 - **Item Types** — create, edit, reorder, delete types.
 - **Household** — manage shared households.
 - **Cloud Backup & Sync** — toggles + last-sync timestamp.
 - **App Lock** — PIN + biometrics.
 - **Archived Items** — view and restore.
 - **Loans** — active and historical loans.
 - **Account** — sign in/out, subscription status.
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22. Troubleshooting

NFC tag not detected

- Make sure NFC is enabled in your device's settings.
- Hold the tag against the back of your phone, near the camera.
- Some metal surfaces interfere — try peeling the tag off.

GPS won't fix

- Grant Box•E location permission when prompted.
- Step outside or near a window — GPS struggles indoors.
- Use the long-press → manual coordinate entry as a fallback.

Cloud sync stuck

- Check your internet connection.
- Sign out and back in from Settings.
- Make sure your subscription is active.

Voice assistant doesn't find items

- Make sure **Include in voice search** is enabled for the item type.
 - Add voice aliases for items with unusual names.
 - Reopen Box•E once after adding new items so the voice index updates.
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23. FAQ

Is my data private?

Yes. Inventory data is stored locally on your device. If you enable cloud backup, it's stored in your private Firebase database under your account — not shared with anyone unless you invite them to your household.

Can I use Box•E without an account?

Yes. All free features work fully offline without signing in.

What happens to my data if I cancel Premium?

Your local data stays on your device. You'll lose live sync but your last cloud backup remains stored.

Does Box•E work without internet?

Yes. The full app works offline. Cloud sync just resumes when you reconnect.

Can I export my data?

Yes. Premium users can export to Excel at any time. The full local SQLite database can also be backed up by your phone's standard backup tools.
