MR.PLANB FIELD GUIDE · CLOUD STORAGE

Proton Drive Free Plan: Limits and History Sheet

What you get free, every dated change, the 12-month inactivity rule and whether a backup tool can reach it.

Updated **2026-10-29** · Full guide: www.mrplanb.com/storage/proton-drive-free-plan

> Proton Drive's free plan starts at 2 GB and reaches up to 5 GB after you complete 3 setup tasks within 30 days. Free accounts inactive for 12 consecutive months may be suspended or deleted. A free tier is a reasonable third copy under the 3-2-1 rule and a poor only copy, because the allowance is a business decision the provider can revise.

5 GB
maximum free storage, 2 GB by default

12 months
inactivity before a free account may be suspended or deleted

5
tracked changes to the free tier

2026-07-29
date the figures were last verified

What you get free

Default allowance
2 GB at signup.

Up to 5 GB
Unlocked by completing 3 setup tasks within 30 days.

Proton Mail
Up to 1 GB, a separate pool from Drive.

Why the headline is cautious
A plan you have to keep working for is not the same as one you are simply given.

How the free tier changed

Newest first. Each entry is dated and sourced on the page.

Date	Type	What happened
June 9, 2026	Feature	Official Proton Drive command-line client, built on the Drive SDK, for scripted uploads and backups
July 4, 2025	Feature	Preview of the Drive SDK (C# and JavaScript) on GitHub, not ready for third-party or production use
April 9, 2024	Policy	12-month inactivity window for free accounts; earlier accounts got a 24-month grace period
February 20, 2024	Increase	Free Drive storage raised from 1 GB to up to 5 GB, gated behind an onboarding checklist
September 22, 2022	Launch	Web app left beta; free plan offered up to 1 GB

Can a backup tool reach it?

Method	Status
rclone	Supported via the protondrive backend
WebDAV	No. Proton offers no WebDAV endpoint or setting
API on the free tier	Unofficial, with an explicit beta and reverse-engineering notice
Official CLI	Shipped June 9, 2026

Before you rely on it

- [ ] Treat it as a third copy under the 3-2-1 rule, never the only copy.
- [ ] Check Proton's pricing page, since free tiers move.
- [ ] Sign in often enough to avoid the 12-month inactivity rule.
- [ ] Pair it with something you control.
- [ ] Use rclone via the protondrive backend if you want scripted backups.
- [ ] Remember one copy in one place is not a backup, whoever hosts it.

What happens if you stop using it

- Proton's Terms of Service (last updated 23 June 2026) say a free account inactive for 12 consecutive months or more may have access and all or part of its data suspended or deleted.
- Associated data is then permanently removed, and Proton sends reminders first.
- Accounts created before 2024-04-09 were given a 24-month grace period instead.

Sources and notes: Proton Drive official pricing page, checked 2026-07-29 · Proton Terms of Service, last updated 23 June 2026 · Mr.PlanB free plan change tracker