THE GOLDBACK GUIDE

The Goldback Buyer Verification Checklist

Seven checks that tell you what a listing is actually selling, before you pay for it. Everything here can be verified from sources the issuer and the dealer publish themselves.

- **No prices, rates or percentages.** Those move. A method does not.
- **About ten minutes** the first time, two or three once it is familiar.
- **Works with any seller**, including the one we link to.

thegoldbackguide.com
Independent, source-checked Goldback coverage

Free to share and print. Please keep it intact.

Affiliate disclosure: The Goldback Guide may earn compensation if a reader purchases through links in this document, at no additional cost to the reader. That commercial relationship does not change the checks below, which apply to every seller including the one we link to. Educational content only, not financial advice.

Why This Exists

Goldback listings are unusually checkable. The issuer publishes the specifications, the reference rate and the series list. The dealer publishes the price, the promotion terms and the stock status. What is rarely published is the sequence for putting those together, which is what this document is.

Work through the steps in order. One to four take a couple of minutes each and catch most misunderstandings. Five to seven are what separate a careful buyer from a disappointed one.

1 Identify the series and denomination

Start with what the note actually is. Every Goldback belongs to a state series and carries a denomination, and the listing title should state both plainly.

- ☐ The title names a **state** and a **number**. “Utah 5” is a complete identification; “gold foil note” is not.
- ☐ The product image matches the description. Artwork differs between states.
- ☐ If the series is new, check whether the **full denomination set** has launched or only part of it.

2 Establish which edition you are looking at

This is where most money is lost, and it is entirely avoidable. The same state and denomination can exist in three forms that do not command the same price.

Edition	What it is
Standard	The ordinary circulating series. What most buyers actually want.
Alpha	First-print run. Carries a collector premium.
Limited Early Release	Collectible first release, sometimes graded and encapsulated, priced accordingly.

- ☐ The listing states which of the three it is. If it does not, ask before paying.
- ☐ You know which one you intended to buy.

3 Check the gold content against the denomination

Gold content is the most stable fact in this market, which makes it the easiest thing to verify.

- ☐ The stated content matches the denomination claimed. Every denomination is a fixed multiple of the base unit.
- ☐ You understand that gold content does **not** change with the gold price, the dealer or the series. Only price moves.

4 Compare the asking price against a published reference

Three different dollar figures attach to the same note, and conflating them is the most common error in this market.

Figure	What it means
Melt value	The gold content valued at the current spot price. Moves continuously.
Reference exchange rate	Published by the issuer so merchants have a common figure. **Not** a guaranteed redemption or resale value.
Dealer asking price	What the seller charges today. Set independently; varies between sellers and over time.

- [ ] You opened the issuer's published rate and the listing side by side, on the day you are buying.
- [ ] You are treating any premium figure quoted in an article, including ours, as true on the day it was written.

5 Read the promotion conditions, not the headline

Promotional offers are real, and narrower than their headlines suggest. The conditions are usually published, simply below the fold.

- [ ] **Exclusions.** Graded notes, collectibles, boxes and frames are commonly carved out.
- [ ] **Threshold.** Whether the item you want can reach it alone, or only in a larger order.
- [ ] **Credit or discount.** Store credit applies to a *later* qualifying order. It is not money off the order that earns it.
- [ ] **Checkout condition.** Some offers require a box ticked at checkout to deliver the benefit.
- [ ] **Running today.** Offers appear and disappear without notice. Confirm at checkout.

6 Confirm custody, eligibility and how you would sell

If you are buying to hold rather than to carry, the terms around the metal matter as much as the metal.

- [ ] **Where the metal lives.** Delivered to you, or vaulted with the seller? Different products, different risks.
- [ ] **What "eligible" means.** Account benefits often apply only to metal both *purchased through* and *vaulted with* that seller.
- [ ] **Limits.** Benefits commonly carry caps, and terms change without notice.
- [ ] **The exit.** Ask how you would sell before you buy. Entry and exit together are the real cost.

7 Record what you saw and when

The step people skip, and the one that settles disputes.

- [ ] Screenshot the listing, the price and the promotion terms before ordering.
- [ ] Note the date you checked.
- [ ] Keep the order confirmation with the screenshot.

The One-Page Version

Keep this page open while you shop, or print it.

1. Series and denomination both stated, and the image matches. ☐
2. Edition identified: standard, Alpha or LER. ☐
3. Gold content consistent with the denomination. ☐
4. Asking price compared against the published reference rate today. ☐
5. Promotion exclusions, threshold, credit-versus-discount and checkout conditions all read. ☐
6. Custody, eligibility and exit route confirmed. ☐
7. Screenshot taken and dated. ☐

IF A SELLER MAKES ALL SEVEN EASY, THAT IS INFORMATION TOO

When you are ready to apply the checklist to a live catalogue, Alpine Gold's Goldback range is the one we use most often, because the series, edition and denomination are stated on each listing.

If you are weighing vaulted custody rather than delivery, the same checks apply to their account terms — particularly steps five and six.

THIS CHECKLIST IS FROZEN. THE PAGE IS NOT.

Your copy of this file will not change. Dealer terms, promotions and account conditions do, and when they do we update the live version rather than reissuing the PDF.

thegoldbackguide.com/goldback-buyer-verification-checklist/ — the current version, always free and never gated.

MORE FROM THE GOLDBACK GUIDE

Gold content by denomination
Exchange rate vs melt value
Which approach suits you — 2-minute quiz
Calculators

thegoldbackguide.com — independent, source-checked Goldback coverage. Every figure we publish carries the date it was read, because a price without a date is not a fact about today.

Educational content only, not financial advice. Goldbacks are privately issued and are not legal tender under 31 U.S.C. § 5103; merchant acceptance is voluntary everywhere. Dealer prices, promotional terms and account conditions change without notice and should be confirmed directly with the seller before purchase. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

Free to share and print. Please keep it intact rather than reproducing sections without the disclosure above.