

# De-Google Your Phone Without Breaking Your Banking Apps

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*One of the biggest concerns people have about de-Googleing their Android phone: "Will my banking apps still work?" It is a fair question. You want privacy. You also need to check your bank balance, pay bills, and maybe move money around. The good news: with the right setup, most banking apps work fine on GrapheneOS.*

## Why Banking Apps Can Be Tricky

Banking apps do not just check your login — they check your phone. Many use Google's "Play Integrity" system to verify your device is "approved" before letting you log in. Stock Android passes these checks automatically. GrapheneOS does not — by design.

The problem is not security. GrapheneOS is actually *more* secure. The problem is that some banks have poorly written checks that assume stock Android behavior.

## The Solution: Sandboxed Google Play + User Profile

GrapheneOS has a clever workaround: install Sandboxed Google Play in a **separate user profile**, and put your banking apps in that profile. Your main profile stays clean and private. Your banking profile has the compatibility layer it needs.

### Step 1: Set Up a Second User Profile

1. Go to **Settings - Users**
2. Tap **Add user or profile**
3. Select **User** (not "Work profile")
4. Set up the profile with a password

### Step 2: Install Sandboxed Google Play

1. Open **Settings - Apps**
  2. Tap the profile switcher (top right or bottom)
  3. Switch to your new profile
  4. Go to **Settings - Apps - Install app**
  5. Download **Sandboxed Google Play** from the GrapheneOS website
  6. Open it and follow the prompts to set up Google Play
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### Step 3: Install Your Banking App

1. Open **Google Play** in your second profile
2. Sign in with your Google account
3. Search for and install your banking app
4. Open the banking app and log in as normal

## Which Canadian Banks Work?

Most major Canadian banks work with this setup:

Bank	Status
Royal Bank (RBC)	Works
TD Canada Trust	Works
Scotiabank	Works
BMO	Works
CIBC	Works
National Bank	Works
Tangerine	Works
Simplii	Works

**Note:** Some smaller or regional credit unions may have issues. Check the [GrapheneOS compatibility list](#) before switching.

## What About Two-Factor Authentication?

Banking 2FA works fine. Most banks support authenticator apps (like Google Authenticator or Aegis) which do not require Google Play. Some also support SMS 2FA, though we recommend an authenticator app for better security.

## The Privacy Trade-off

Here is the honest truth: this setup is not perfect privacy. You are running Google Play in one profile. But consider:

- **Your main profile has no Google** — no tracking, no Play Services
- **Banking apps are sandboxed** — they cannot see your main profile data
- **You are still way ahead** of stock Android in terms of privacy

Perfect is the enemy of good. This setup gives you strong privacy on your daily driver while keeping your banking working.

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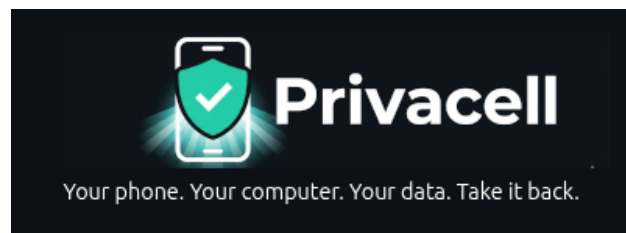
## Need Help?

If this sounds too technical, or if your bank does not cooperate, we offer a **de-Googleing service** that sets everything up for you — including the banking compatibility profile.

Contact us for a free 30-minute consultation: [privacell.ca/contact-us/](https://privacell.ca/contact-us/)

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Would you like to talk to a human being?  
We offer a free 30 minute consultation.  
Call Gianni – 250.444.8404  
[www.privacell.ca](https://www.privacell.ca)



*Last updated: April 2026*

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