EMBERION DIGITAL LLC

SAFE, FREE QR CODE GENERATORS

ADVISORY

Pros, Cons & Pre-Publish Checklist

Static vs. Dynamic QR Codes

CHOOSE ◆ PUBLISH ◆ TEST ◆ SCAN

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Choosing a Safe, Free QR Code Generator

This advisory compares free QR code generators for small businesses and solo operators, and explains what to check before a code goes to print. Pros and cons are summarized in the charts below.

Bottom Line

The safest free QR code is a **static** one. The destination is stored inside the code itself, so it never expires, needs no account, and no third-party server sits between your customer and your link. The biggest real-world risk with "free" generators is not hacking. It is **dynamic codes on a free trial**, which several vendors document will stop working when the trial or plan ends. Use a static-only generator, point the code at a page on a domain you control, and test it before printing.

Static vs. Dynamic Codes at a Glance

	STATIC CODE	DYNAMIC CODE
How it works	Destination is encoded directly in the pattern.	Code holds a short link owned by the generator, which redirects to your page.
Pros	Never expires. No account needed. No middleman server. No scan tracking by the generator.	Destination can be edited after printing. Scan analytics available.
Cons	Cannot be edited once printed. No scan analytics. Long URLs make a denser, harder-to-scan pattern.	Stops working if a trial ends or a plan lapses. Free tiers may cap scans or expire codes. Scans route through, and can be logged by, a third party.
Our verdict	**Default choice for anything printed.**	**Use only on a paid plan you intend to keep, or via a redirect on your own domain.**

Free Static Generators: Comparison Chart

All five below generate static codes with no sign-up. The first two are longer-established and publish more about how they handle your data. The last three are newer or lesser-known. Their privacy statements are the vendors' own, and we found no independent audits.

GENERATOR	PROS	CONS	DATA HANDLING (AS PUBLISHED)
goQR.me **Recommended**	Free, no sign-up. Explicit no-tracking and no-cookies statement. Plain-English privacy page. Codes do not expire.	Basic styling. Analytics and editable codes are only available through its separate paid QR-Server platform.	Data sent over TLS to its API; image cached about 30 seconds, then deleted; no scan tracking.
QRCode Monkey **Recommended, with caveats**	Free, no registration. Custom colors, shapes, and logo. No scan limits and no expiry. Widely used.	No analytics, password protection, or other security features. No published security certifications for the free tool (per a competitor's review).	No account data collected. A one-day cache is reported; confirm on its privacy page.
Vaultaire **Acceptable, verify first**	Generated in your browser tab. No account, email, or subscription. No redirect, so nothing to expire.	Newer tool with little independent track record. Fewer design options advertised than QRCode Monkey.	States entered content is not sent to Vaultaire for generation, tracking, or storage.

GENERATOR	PROS	CONS	DATA HANDLING (AS PUBLISHED)
Moda QR tool Acceptable, verify first	Free downloads as PNG, SVG, and print-ready PDF. No signup, trial, or watermark. Logo and color options; scannability check.	Hosted by a vendor that promotes its own design product alongside the tool. Static only, no tracking.	Self-described as static with no redirect server; no independent verification found.
StackQR Acceptable, verify first	No signup or tracking. Supports URL, Wi-Fi, email, phone, SMS, and text. Five download formats.	Ad-supported. Newer, individually built tool. Fewer styling controls advertised.	States no account, no tracking; claims are self-reported.
Dynamic "free trial" generators Use caution	Analytics and editable destinations. Static codes in the same accounts generally keep working.	Vendors document that dynamic codes made in a trial are deactivated when it ends. One vendor's free tier expires dynamic codes after 30 days, with a 50-scan cap each.	Scans pass through the vendor's redirect server, so the vendor can see scan activity.

Before You Publish a Code: Five-Minute Checklist

- **Choose static.** Anything printed (cards, flyers, packaging, decals) should be static.
- **Point to a domain you control.** A static code lasts only as long as its destination does, so link to a page you can keep alive. Need edits or analytics later? Put a redirect on your own domain.
- **Test before printing, and again after.** Scan with at least two different phones, then scan a printed proof at its real size.
- **Keep contrast high and logos small.** Dark pattern on a light background is safest; a logo that covers too much of the code can break scanning.
- **Do not encode secrets.** Anyone who scans a Wi-Fi or contact-card code can read what is inside it.
- **Keep a simple inventory** of every code you publish: what it points to, where it is printed, and the date.

When You Scan Someone Else's Code

- **Read the link preview before opening it.** Look for misspellings or swapped letters.
- **Skip unexpected codes** in texts, emails, or mailed items, especially urgent ones about an account, a package, or a payment.
- **Inspect physical codes.** A sticker placed over the original, with bumps or peeling edges, is a warning sign.
- **Treat any login, password, or payment prompt after a scan as a red flag.**
- **Keep your phone updated and use two-factor authentication.**
- **If you are targeted,** report it at reportfraud.ftc.gov or ic3.gov and notify your bank if money or credentials were exposed.

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This advisory is provided for informational purposes only. It is based on vendor documentation and public guidance, is not a technical security audit, and does not constitute legal, regulatory, or compliance advice. Emberion Digital, LLC makes no representations or warranties, express or implied, about any third-party tool named here.

Citations & Sources

Reviewed October 20, 2026. Vendor terms and prices change often; re-check a tool's current terms before relying on it for printed or client-facing material.

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Describes encrypted submission, a roughly 30-second cache, and no scan tracking.
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