Buying a hardware wallet tells people you hold crypto. Buyer lists have leaked, and devices can be intercepted or tampered with in shipping before they reach you. Criminals have used that information for phishing and, in some cases, physical threats.

VERDICT:

With these risks in mind, I recommend buying new from the maker or an authorized reseller and shipping it to a pickup point. Do not post about the purchase, and return any device that arrives opened or already set up. Keep your recovery phrase offline, confirm every transaction on the device, and split funds across more than one wallet so a single breach cannot take everything.

VERIFIED EVENTS

YEAR	EVENT	DETAILS
2026	**Warning**	Ledger: “no global supply chain is entirely immune to highly sophisticated interception or tampering attacks.”
2025	**Kidnapping**	Paris prosecutor: Ledger co-founder kidnapped from his Méreau home for a large crypto ransom, then freed
2023	**Connect Kit**	Malicious npm package; some users signed draining dapp transactions; hardware unaffected
2020	**Ledger buyer data**	About 1 million emails; later about 272,000 names, addresses, and phones

> In addition to SIM swapping and network intrusions, physical extortion is another means of stealing cryptocurrency. This can involve kidnapping, torture, threats of violence toward family members, and the use of firearms.
>
> FBI, July 23, 2025

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