XenForo Template Cheat Sheet (XF 2.x)

Correct, safe, and idiomatic template usage for XenForo add-ons.

Output Variables

● Use {$var} — XenForo escapes output automatically
● Avoid |raw unless output is trusted HTML

Dates & Times

● Use <xf:date time="$timestamp" />
● Never format dates manually

Links & URLs

● Use {{ link('route', $entity) }}
● Never hardcode paths or URLs

Conditionals

● Use <xf:if is="$condition">
● Keep logic simple — compute complex logic in PHP

Loops

● Use <xf:foreach loop="$items" value="$item">
● Check empty arrays before looping

Avatars & Users

● Use <xf:avatar user="$user" size="m" />
● Use <xf:username user="$user" />

Forms

● Always use <xf:form>
● Never hand-roll CSRF tokens

Macros

● Use macros for repeated UI blocks
● Keeps templates DRY and maintainable

CSS / LESS

● CSS templates are not auto-loaded
● Always include with <xf:css src="file.less" />

Never Do This

● Database queries in templates
● Date math or calculations
● Hardcoded URLs or paths
● Complex business logic