



WORKFLOW AUTOPILOT GUIDE

Before you build with AI.

Five simple checks that keep your AI-built project from falling apart later.

Do these first. Build cleaner.

5 THINGS NOBODY TELLS YOU FIRST

1 Get an undo button.

2 Hide your keys.

3 Build one piece.

4 Make it prove it.

5 Keep it tidy.



THE 5 CHECKS

Do these before AI builds.

These five checks keep your project from turning into a mess you cannot trust.

1

Get an undo button.

Use Git before you build.

Git saves a checkpoint each time the project works.

2

Hide your keys.

Never paste passwords into code.

Put keys in a hidden .env file. Keep that file off the internet.

3

Build one piece.

Do not ask for the whole app.

Get a simple plan. Build step one. Check it. Then move on.

4

Make it prove it.

Done is not proof.

Test the happy path and the failure path after each piece.

5

Keep it tidy.

One job per file.

Split the work. Write a short map. Check before adding more.

THE POINT

You do not have to be a coder. You need guardrails before you start.

BEFORE YOU BUILD

1 Get an undo button.

Use Git before you build.

THE TRAP

One bad change breaks the project and you cannot get back.

THE FIX

Git saves a checkpoint each time the project works.

1

Build

2

Works

3

Save

4

Change

5

Go Back

TELL YOUR AI

"Set up Git for this project. Save a checkpoint each time something works, and show me how to go back if I need to."

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON

You are ready when you can see a checkpoint and know how to go back.

BEFORE YOU BUILD

2

Hide your keys.

Never paste passwords into code.

THE TRAP

A secret key gets shared online and someone runs up your bill.

THE FIX

Put keys in a hidden .env file. Keep that file off the internet.

1

Code

2

.env

3

Private

4

Bill Safe

TELL YOUR AI

"Put all my keys and passwords in a .env file, never in the code. Make sure it cannot get shared or uploaded."

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON

You are ready when the key is in .env and .env cannot be uploaded.



BEFORE YOU BUILD

3

Build one piece.

Do not ask for the whole app.

THE TRAP

A giant request turns into a giant mess.

THE FIX

Get a simple plan. Build step one. Check it. Then move on.

1

Plan

2

Step 1

3

Check

4

Step 2

TELL YOUR AI

"Before you build, give me a simple list of the steps. Then build just step one and show me it works before you go on."

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON

You are ready when step one works before step two starts.



BEFORE YOU BUILD

4 Make it prove it.

Done is not proof.

THE TRAP

**The AI says it works.
Later, half of it is broken.**

THE FIX

**Test the happy path and
the failure path after each
piece.**

1

Build

2

Test

3

Fail Test

4

Show Proof

TELL YOUR AI

"After each piece, test it and show me it works. Also test what happens when something fails."

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON

You are ready when the good path and bad path both get tested.



BEFORE YOU BUILD

5

Keep it tidy.

One job per file.

THE TRAP

The project grows into one big file nobody can fix.

THE FIX

Split the work. Write a short map. Check before adding more.

1

One Job

2

Short Map

3

Check First

4

Less Waste

TELL YOUR AI

"Keep each file to one job. Write a short note listing what each part does. Before adding anything new, check if it already exists."

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON

You are ready when the next person can see what each part does.

WHEN YOU ARE READY

Go past the demo.

We partner with you and build it right.

workflowautopilot.com/contact