

The opencode.ai setup walkthrough

A free, MIT-licensed, terminal-native AI coding agent — and exactly what "free" actually costs once you connect your own provider. Six steps, straight from opencode's own docs.

BEFORE YOU START

opencode itself has no license fee. You still pay per token to whichever of its 75+ supported LLM providers you connect — this guide shows you exactly where that choice happens.

Setup — install & launch

1 INSTALL

Pick one install method

opencode ships for every major platform. Use whichever matches your existing toolchain — none of these require an account yet.

```
# macOS / Linux — install script
curl -fsSL https://opencode.ai/install | bash

# npm (any OS with Node)
npm install -g opencode-ai

# Homebrew
brew install anomalyco/tap/opencode

# Windows — Scoop
scoop install opencode

# Windows — Chocolatey
choco install opencode

# Arch Linux
sudo pacman -S opencode
```

Source: opencode.ai/docs

2 LAUNCH

Start it inside a project

opencode is project-scoped. Navigate into the repo you want it to work on first, then launch the interface.

```
cd /path/to/your/project
opencode
```

Setup — connect & initialize

3 CONNECT A PROVIDER

This is where the cost model kicks in

Inside the running session, connect an LLM provider. [opencode's own docs](#) recommend "OpenCode Zen" as the beginner-friendly default, but any of the 75+ supported providers work.

```
/connect
```

Pick a provider from the list, then go to **[opencode.ai/auth](#)** to sign in and generate an API key. Paste that key back into the prompt when asked.

Source: [opencode.ai/docs](#), [opencode.ai/docs/models](#)

4 INITIALIZE

Generate your project's agent context

Run this once per project. It writes an `AGENTS.md` file to your project root — [opencode's docs](#) recommend committing it to version control so the context travels with the repo.

```
/init
```

Setup — choose your model

5 CHOOSE YOUR MODEL

Set it per-session or lock it in config

Switch models interactively any time, or pin one in `opencode.json` so every session starts on it.

```
/models

# or, in opencode.json:
{
  "$schema": "https://opencode.ai/config.json",
  "model": "provider_id/model_id"
}
```

Source: opencode.ai/docs/models

Setup — what it costs

6 KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY PAYING FOR

Two pricing models, side by side

	FLAT SUBSCRIPTION	OPENCODE (BYOK)
License fee	Flat, recurring	None
You pay for	Access	Tokens used
Providers available	One	75+
License	Proprietary	MIT

THE CATCH

BYOK is not automatically cheaper. Cost is entirely a function of which provider and model you route through — heavy use on a premium frontier model can exceed what a flat subscription would have cost, and there's no vendor support line if something breaks. Provider pricing is set independently and can change at any time.

[1] opencode.ai — <https://opencode.ai/>

[2] opencode.ai/docs — <https://opencode.ai/docs/>

[3] opencode.ai/docs/models — <https://opencode.ai/docs/models/>

[4] github.com/sst/opencode — MIT license