

Recommendation: When to Set Up a Staging Environment

Option 1: Early in Sprint [🔗](#)

Pros:

- Allows immediate testing of new features.
 - Identifies integration issues sooner.
 - Encourages CI/CD discipline from the start.
 - Helps QA begin testing incrementally.
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Cons:

- Extra overhead maintaining a half-built environment.
- May test incomplete/inconsistent features.
- Can slow down developers with broken deploys.

Best for: Teams with strong CI/CD habits and stable builds.

Option 2: Mid-Sprint or Later [🔗](#)

Pros:

- Staging reflects a more stable, functional product.
- Less maintenance early on.
- QA can test more coherent flows.

Cons:

- Misses early feedback.
- Bugs may pile up undetected.
- Rushed staging setup near release.

Best for: Teams with limited DevOps experience or lots of early churn.

Low Priority Recommended Approach for Team: [🔗](#)

Set up the staging environment early in Sprint 2, but keep it lightweight. Deploy feature toggles or only stable features. This allows testing and feedback to happen in parallel with development without creating too much maintenance burden.