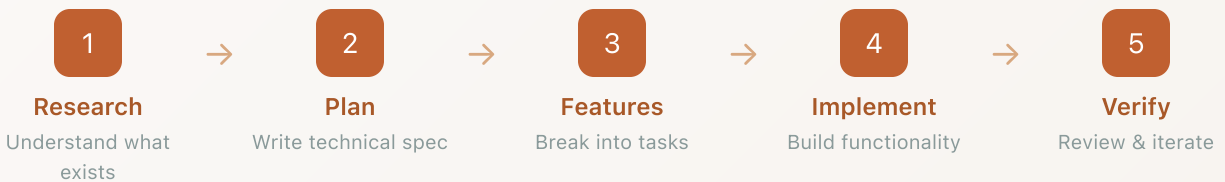# Atomic

AI Assisted Development

WHAT IS ATOMIC?

Atomic is a framework that guides AI coding tools to follow real software engineering practices. Instead of generating code immediately, it enforces a structured process: research the codebase, write a technical plan, break work into a feature list, implement one piece at a time, then verify changes through review. It works for existing projects and new ones you're starting from scratch.

THE WORKFLOW

1	→	**2**	→	**3**	→	**4**	→	**5**
Research		**Plan**		**Features**		**Implement**		**Verify**
Understand what exists		Write technical spec		Break into tasks		Build functionality		Review & iterate

THIS ISN'T OUTSOURCING YOUR THINKING

Without structure, AI coding agents generate first and ask questions never. That's how you end up with thousands of lines that miss the point. Atomic forces the agent through checkpoints—you read the research, review the plan, approve the feature list—so the AI stays on track and you stay in control.

> **KEY PRINCIPLE**
> You own the decisions. AI owns the execution.

WHY IT MATTERS

When AI coding agents jump straight to code, the result is slop—bloated, incoherent output that doesn't fit the codebase. Atomic prevents this by keeping agents steerable. Each phase produces a reviewable artifact—research findings, technical plan, feature list—so you can course-correct before any code is written. Nothing gets built without your approval.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- **Technical specifications** — How professional teams document what they're building before writing code

- **Architecture decisions** — Why code is organized a certain way and what tradeoffs exist

- **Implementation planning** — Breaking complex features into testable, incremental pieces

- **Code review mindset** — Evaluating generated code against specs and best practices

- **Long-horizon execution** — Using Ralph mode to run autonomous multi-hour coding sessions

> **REAL SDLC PRACTICES**
> Research → Plan → Features → Implement → Verify is how professional software teams operate. Changes are reviewed and iterated on until requirements are met. Atomic makes this workflow accessible while AI handles the tedious parts.

Get started:

```
curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/flora131/atomic/main/install.sh | bash
```