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Install overview

# Installer Internals

OpenClaw ships three installer scripts, served from `openclaw.ai`.

Script	Platform	What it does
<u><a href="#">install.sh</a></u>	macOS / Linux / WSL	Installs Node if needed, installs OpenClaw via npm (default) or git, and can run onboarding.
<u><a href="#">install-cli.sh</a></u>	macOS / Linux / WSL	Installs Node + OpenClaw into a local prefix ( <code>~/.openclaw</code> ). No root required.
<u><a href="#">install.ps1</a></u>	Windows (PowerShell)	Installs Node if needed, installs OpenClaw via npm (default) or git, and can run onboarding.

## Quick commands

`install.sh`   `install-cli.sh`   `install.ps1`

```
curl -fsSL --proto '=https' --tlsv1.2 https://openclaw.ai/install.sh |
```

```
curl -fsSL --proto '=https' --tlsv1.2 https://openclaw.ai/install.sh |
```



If install succeeds but `openclaw` is not found in a new terminal, see [Node.js troubleshooting](#).

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## install.sh



Recommended for most interactive installs on macOS/Linux/WSL.

### Flow (install.sh)

#### 1 Detect OS

Supports macOS and Linux (including WSL). If macOS is detected, installs Homebrew if missing.

#### 2 Ensure Node.js 22+

Checks Node version and installs Node 22 if needed (Homebrew on macOS, NodeSource setup scripts on Linux apt/dnf/yum).

#### 3 Ensure Git

Installs Git if missing.

#### 4 Install OpenClaw

```
npm method (default): global npm install
git method: clone/update repo, install deps with pnpm, build,
then install wrapper at ~/.local/bin/openclaw
```

#### 5 Post-install tasks



Runs `openclaw doctor --non-interactive` on upgrades and git installs (best effort)

Attempts onboarding when appropriate (TTY available, onboarding not disabled, and bootstrap/config checks pass)

Defaults `SHARP_IGNORE_GLOBAL_LIBVIPS=1`

## Source checkout detection

If run inside an OpenClaw checkout ( `package.json` + `pnpm-workspace.yaml` ), the script offers:

```
use checkout ( git ), or
use global install ( npm )
```

If no TTY is available and no install method is set, it defaults to `npm` and warns.

The script exits with code `2` for invalid method selection or invalid `--install-method` values.

## Examples (install.sh)

**Default**   Skip onboarding   Git install   Dry run

```
curl -fsSL --proto '=https' --tlsv1.2 https://openclaw.ai/install.sh |
```

Flags reference

Environment variables reference



## install-cli.sh

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- ① Designed for environments where you want everything under a local prefix (default `~/.openclaw`) and no system Node dependency.

### Flow (install-cli.sh)

#### 1 Install local Node runtime

Downloads Node tarball (default `22.22.0`) to `<prefix>/tools/node-v<version>` and verifies SHA-256.

#### 2 Ensure Git

If Git is missing, attempts install via apt/dnf/yum on Linux or Homebrew on macOS.

#### 3 Install OpenClaw under prefix

Installs with npm using `--prefix <prefix>`, then writes wrapper to `<prefix>/bin/openclaw`.

### Examples (install-cli.sh)

**Default**   Custom prefix + version   Automation JSON output   Run onboarding

```
curl -fsSL --proto '=https' --tlsv1.2 https://openclaw.ai/install-cli.
```



Flags reference

Environment variables reference

## install.ps1

### Flow (install.ps1)

#### 1 Ensure PowerShell + Windows environment

Requires PowerShell 5+.

#### 2 Ensure Node.js 22+

If missing, attempts install via winget, then Chocolatey, then Scoop.

#### 3 Install OpenClaw

```
npm method (default): global npm install using selected -Tag
git method: clone/update repo, install/build with pnpm, and
install wrapper at %USERPROFILE%\local\bin\openclaw.cmd
```

#### 4 Post-install tasks

Adds needed bin directory to user PATH when possible, then runs `openclaw doctor --non-interactive` on upgrades and git installs (best effort).

### Examples (install.ps1)



**Default**   Git install   Custom git directory   Dry run   Debug trace

→

```
iwr -useb https://openclaw.ai/install.ps1 | iex
```

Flags reference

Environment variables reference

❗ If `-InstallMethod git` is used and Git is missing, the script exits and prints the Git for Windows link.

## CI and automation

Use non-interactive flags/env vars for predictable runs.

**install.sh (non-interactive npm)**   install.sh (non-interactive git)   install-cli.



```
curl -fsSL --proto '=https' --tlsv1.2 https://openclaw.ai/install.sh |
```

## Troubleshooting

Why is Git required?



Why does npm hit EACCES on Linux?

sharp/libvips issues

Windows: "npm error spawn git / ENOENT"

Windows: "openclaw is not recognized"

Windows: how to get verbose installer output

openclaw not found after install

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