

**Install & Updates**

Installer Internals

OpenClaw ships two installer scripts (served from `openclaw.ai`):

`https://openclaw.ai/install.sh` – “recommended” installer (global npm install by default; can also install from a GitHub checkout)

`https://openclaw.ai/install-cli.sh` – non-root-friendly CLI installer (installs into a prefix with its own Node)

`https://openclaw.ai/install.ps1` – Windows PowerShell installer (npm by default; optional git install)

To see the current flags/behavior, run:

```
curl -fsSL https://openclaw.ai/install.sh | bash -s -- --help
```



Windows (PowerShell) help:

```
& ([scriptblock]::Create((iwr -useb https://openclaw.ai/install.ps1
```



If the installer completes but `openclaw` is not found in a new terminal, it's usually a Node/npm PATH issue. See: [Install](#).

install.sh (recommended)

What it does (high level):

Detect OS (macOS / Linux / WSL).



Ensure Node.js 22+ (macOS via Homebrew; Linux via NodeSource).

Choose install method:

`npm (default): npm install -g openclaw@latest`

`git` : clone/build a source checkout and install a wrapper script

On Linux: avoid global npm permission errors by switching npm's prefix to `~/.npm-global` when needed.

If upgrading an existing install: runs `openclaw doctor --non-interactive` (best effort).

For git installs: runs `openclaw doctor --non-interactive` after install/update (best effort).

Mitigates `sharp` native install gotchas by defaulting `SHARP_IGNORE_GLOBAL_LIBVIPS=1` (avoids building against system libvips).

If you *want* `sharp` to link against a globally-installed libvips (or you're debugging), set:

```
SHARP_IGNORE_GLOBAL_LIBVIPS=0 curl -fsSL https://openclaw.ai/install
```



Discoverability / "git install" prompt

If you run the installer while **already inside a OpenClaw source checkout** (detected via `package.json` + `pnpm-workspace.yaml`), it prompts:

update and use this checkout (`git`)

or migrate to the global npm install (`npm`)

In non-interactive contexts (no TTY / `--no-prompt`), you must pass `--install-method git|npm` (or set `OPENCLAW_INSTALL_METHOD`), otherwise the script exits with code 2 .

Why Git is needed

Git is required for the `--install-method git` path (clone / pull).

For `npm` installs, Git is usually not required, but some environments still end up needing it (e.g. when a package or dependency is fetched via a git URL). The installer currently ensures Git is present to avoid spawning `git ENOENT` surprises on fresh distros.

Why npm hits EACCES on fresh Linux

On some Linux setups (especially after installing Node via the system package manager or NodeSource), `npm`'s global prefix points at a root-owned location. Then `npm install -g ...` fails with `EACCES / mkdir` permission errors.

`install.sh` mitigates this by switching the prefix to:

```
~/.npm-global (and adding it to PATH in ~/.bashrc / ~/.zshrc when present)
```

install-cli.sh (non-root CLI installer)

This script installs `openclaw` into a prefix (default: `~/.openclaw`) and also installs a dedicated Node runtime under that prefix, so it can work on machines where you don't want to touch the system Node/npm.

Help:

```
curl -fsSL https://openclaw.ai/install-cli.sh | bash -s -- --help
```



install.ps1 (Windows PowerShell)

What it does (high level):

Ensure Node.js 22+ (winget/Chocolatey/Scoop or manual).

Choose install method:

`npm` (default): `npm install -g openclaw@latest`

`git`: clone/build a source checkout and install a wrapper script

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

Examples: >

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



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



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



Environment variables:

```
OPENCLAW_INSTALL_METHOD=git|npm
```

```
OPENCLAW_GIT_DIR=...
```

Git requirement:

If you choose `-InstallMethod git` and Git is missing, the installer will print the Git for Windows link (<https://git-scm.com/download/win>) and exit.

Common Windows issues:

npm error spawn git / ENOENT: install Git for Windows and reopen PowerShell, then rerun the installer.

“openclaw” is not recognized: your npm global bin folder is not on PATH. Most systems use `%AppData%\npm`. You can also run `npm config get prefix` and add `\bin` to PATH, then reopen PowerShell.

< Install

Updating >



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