

Stripe Setup Guide

Overview

This application uses Stripe for payment processing. You need to configure your Stripe API keys to enable payment functionality.

Required Keys

1. Stripe Publishable Key (Frontend)

- Used in the frontend for creating payment forms
- Safe to expose in client-side code
- Starts with `pk_test_` (test mode) or `pk_live_` (production)

2. Stripe Secret Key (Backend)

- Used in API endpoints for creating payment intents
- Must be kept secret and never exposed to client-side code
- Starts with `sk_test_` (test mode) or `sk_live_` (production)

3. Stripe Webhook Secret (Optional)

- Used to verify webhook events from Stripe
- Starts with `whsec_`

Setup Instructions

Step 1: Get Your Stripe Keys

1. Sign up for a Stripe account at <https://stripe.com>
2. Go to your Stripe Dashboard
3. Navigate to "Developers" → "API keys"
4. Copy your "Publishable key" and "Secret key"

Step 2: Configure Local Development

Edit `frontend/.env.local`:

```
VITE_STRIPE_PUBLISHABLE_KEY=pk_test_your_actual_stripe_publishable_key_here
```

Step 3: Configure Production (Vercel)

In your Vercel project settings, add these environment variables:

- `VITE_STRIPE_PUBLISHABLE_KEY`: Your Stripe publishable key
- `STRIPE_SECRET_KEY`: Your Stripe secret key (for API endpoints)
- `STRIPE_WEBHOOK_SECRET`: Your webhook secret (if using webhooks)

Step 4: Test Mode vs Production

Test Mode (Development):

- Use keys that start with `pk_test_` and `sk_test_`
- Use test card numbers: 4242 4242 4242 4242
- No real money will be charged

Production Mode:

- Use keys that start with `pk_live_` and `sk_live_`
- Real payments will be processed
- Make sure to test thoroughly before going live

Troubleshooting

Error: "Invalid API Key provided"

This error occurs when:

1. The Stripe key is not set or is invalid
2. The key is a placeholder/demo value
3. The key format is incorrect

Solution:

1. Verify your key starts with `pk_test_` or `pk_live_`
2. Make sure there are no extra spaces or characters
3. Check that the key is properly set in your environment variables

Payment form not showing

If the payment form doesn't appear:

1. Check the browser console for errors
2. Verify the Stripe publishable key is properly configured
3. Make sure the key is not a placeholder value

API errors during payment

If payments fail at the API level:

1. Check that `STRIPE_SECRET_KEY` is properly configured in Vercel
2. Verify the secret key matches the publishable key (both test or both live)
3. Check the API logs in Vercel for specific error messages

Security Notes

1. **Never commit real API keys to version control**
2. **Use test keys during development**
3. **Keep secret keys confidential**
4. **Rotate keys if they're ever exposed**

5. Use different keys for development and production

Support

For Stripe-specific issues, refer to:

- [Stripe Documentation](#)
- [Stripe Testing Guide](#)
- [Stripe Dashboard](#)