**Complete step-by-step: *clean* way to create a user on Solaris**

Nice — below is a compact, reliable recipe you can follow from start to finish. I’ll show the **recommended commands**, what each does, and common troubleshooting tips.

Run these as **root** (use su - or sudo -i first).

**1) Decide username & home path**

Example: username john and home /export/home/john (Solaris default).  
If you prefer Linux-style homes use /home/john.

**2) (Optional) Create a primary group for the user**

If you want a group with the same name:

bash

groupadd john

Or use an existing group like staff (no need to create).

**3) Create the user (best practice)**

This makes the account and (usually) the home directory:

bash

useradd -m -d /export/home/john -s /bin/bash -g staff john

What the options mean:

* -m : create home directory if it doesn’t exist
* -d /export/home/john : explicitly set the home path
* -s /bin/bash : set login shell (adjust if /bin/bash not present)
* -g staff : primary group (use john if you created a same-named group)

If Solaris on your install uses /home as default, change the -d accordingly.

**4) If useradd didn’t create the home dir — create it (safe)**

bash

mkdir -p /export/home/john

chown -R john:staff /export/home/john

chmod 700 /export/home/john # 700 is private; use 755 if you want it world-readable

**5) Copy the skeleton files so the user has a default environment**

bash

cp -a /etc/skel/. /export/home/john/ # copies dotfiles (.profile, etc.)

chown -R john:staff /export/home/john

**6) Set the user password**

bash

passwd john

(You’ll be prompted to type the new password twice.)

**7) Verify the user was created correctly**

bash

id john # shows UID, GID and groups

grep '^john:' /etc/passwd # shows the passwd entry and home path

ls -ld /export/home/john # confirm owner and permissions

**8) Test the login / environment**

Switch into the account (no need to log out):

bash

su - john

# or: ssh john@<your\_vm\_ip> (if ssh service and network are configured)

Check pwd and that ~ is correct:

bash

pwd

whoami

**9) Give sudo access (if required) — safely**

Always edit sudoers with visudo:

bash

visudo

Then add a line (example grants full sudo rights):

sql

john ALL=(ALL) ALL

Save and exit. Test as john:

bash

sudo ls /root

**10) Common pitfalls & troubleshooting**

* **mkdir /export/home/john fails (parent missing)** → use:

bash

mkdir -p /export/home/john

* **chown john:john → unknown group** → create group first:

bash

groupadd john

usermod -g john john

* **Home still says “No directory!” when logging in** → check /etc/passwd home field, ls -ld /export/home/john, ownership and permissions.
* **Shell not found** → check available shells with:

bash

cat /etc/shells

Use a valid shell path in useradd -s.

* **Cannot delete user because “user is in use”** → find and stop processes:

bash

ps -u john

pkill -9 -u john # force kill remaining processes (use carefully)

Then remove:

bash

userdel -r john

**11) Quick one-liner (creates user, home, sets password prompt, fixes ownership)**

bash

useradd -m -d /export/home/john -s /bin/bash -g staff john && passwd john && chown -R john:staff /export/home/john && chmod 700 /export/home/john

(You’ll be asked to enter password by passwd.)