Get a MetaMask wallet and ETH (all for free)

This document covers installing a MetaMask wallet in your browser and requesting free Ropsten ETH from a test Ethereum faucet.

The Favorite Comfort Food Chain is free. Why do you need ETH, free or otherwise?

There's a blockchain gas fee every time you "wave at me" to add your favorite food to the chain.
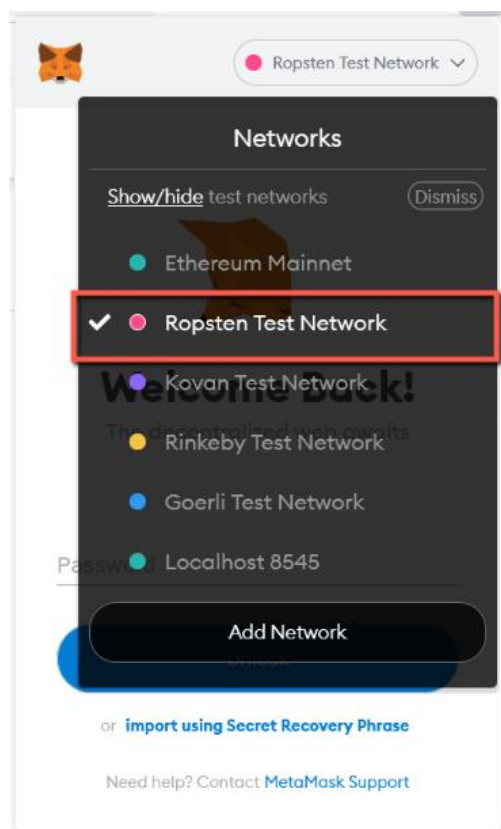
Each Ethereum testnet has its own ETH. Our app is on the Ropsten testnet, so you need Ropsten ETH for the blockchain fees. If the app was on the Rinkeby testnet, you'd need Rinkeby ETH. Testnet ETH has no value on the Mainnet, where people trade real ETH (1 ETH ~ $2800USD at time of writing.)

Ropsten ETH is free for the asking. We'll go into how to do this shortly.
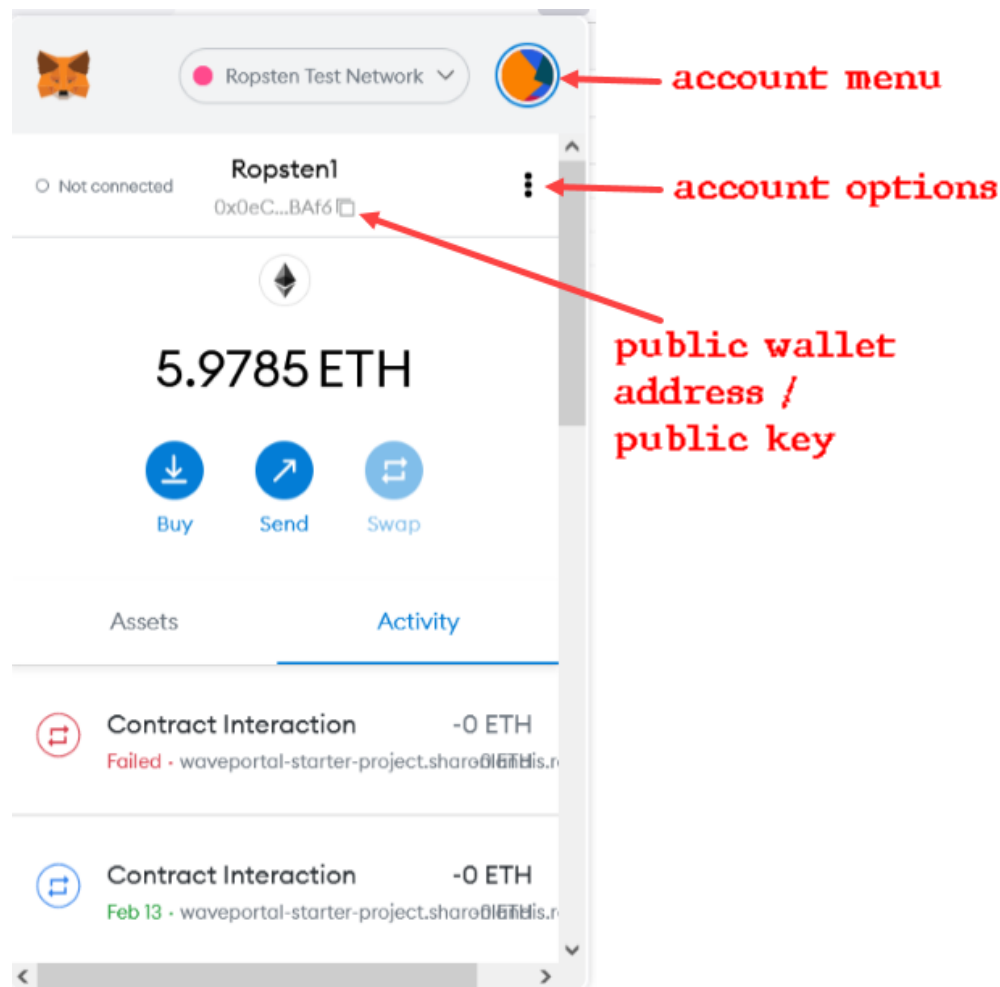
1. Sign up for a MetaMask wallet

MM is a beginner friendly crypto wallet. Go to https://metamask.io to get a free wallet.

Once your wallet is installed in your browser, switch to the Ropsten Test Network.

Click on the circle icon at the top right for the account menu. This gives you a list of all your accounts. At this point there will be one account, "Account 1."

In the below example, I renamed "Account 1" to "Ropsten1" by clicking on account options (three vertical dots under the account menu,) then Account Details. Changing your account names is optional.

No one, other than you, sees or cares about your wallet account names. Basically, account names help you organize your wallet. I name my accounts according to the crypto they hold, Main 1, Ropsten1, Rinkeby1, Rinkeby2, etc.

Each account has a public wallet address, or public key, as well as a private key. In the above example, the public key is directly below "Ropsten1". It's fine to let people/software know your public key. A public key is how you direct crypto to and from your wallet accounts. Private keys are different. Never share your private key. In crypto spaces everywhere, you'll hear this over and over: never share your private key or seed phrase.

2. Get Ropsten ETH from a Ropsten faucet (free)

Here are a few Ropsten faucets. You don't need much ETH for our app, 0.1ETH is more than enough.
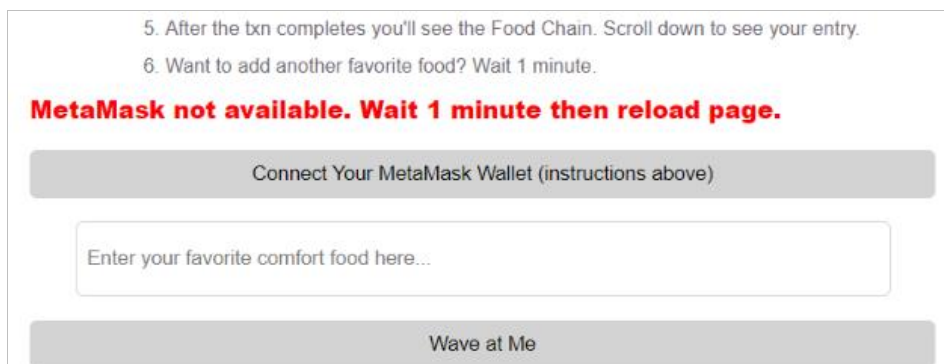
I've tried the first two faucets.

https://ropsten.oregonctf.org/eth

https://ropsten.chain.link/

https://www.moonborrow.com/ (I haven't tried this one)

https://faucet.paradigm.xyz/ (or this one)

After requesting ETH, check etherscan, https://ropsten.etherscan.io/, to get transfer transaction info. Once the transaction completes, you'll see the ETH in your wallet.

3. You may need to reload the app to get started

You may see this message, *"MetaMask is not available. Wait 1 minute, then reload the page"* when you load the app. This only happens, if at all, when you first load the app.

Make sure you wait a full 1 minute before reloading.

After you reload the page, the message disappears and you are good to go.

You're now ready to add to the Favorite Comfort Food Chain.

Happy chaining!