

Set up ECC in Claude Code

Give Claude Code a real planning, testing, and review workflow — free, open source, installed in two commands.

WHAT IT IS

An engineering workflow for Claude Code

ECC is a free, open-source add-on for Claude Code. On its own, Claude Code just follows whatever you type — it can skip planning, forget to write tests, or review its own work with the same blind spots it started with. ECC installs a set of skills, agents, and checks that make Claude Code plan first, test its changes, and check its own work from a fresh perspective, automatically.

WHAT IT DOES

Adds structure without adding effort

- Writes a plan for a feature and asks you to approve it before touching any code
- Writes a failing test first, then implements until it passes (test-driven development)
- Reviews finished code from a separate, fresh pass — catching things the original context missed
- Remembers useful patterns across sessions instead of starting from zero every time
- Scans your project's own AI configuration for security issues

WHAT IT REPLACES

The instructions you'd otherwise write yourself

Without ECC, getting Claude Code to plan, test, and review properly means writing your own custom instructions and repeating them every session — and hoping the model doesn't forget. ECC ships that entire workflow pre-built, for free, and it stays out of your way until you ask for it.

BEFORE YOU START

What you need first

Claude Code already installed and working on your computer. ECC installs into it — it doesn't work on its own.

- **To check:** open Claude Code and type `/help` then press Enter. If it responds with a list of commands, you're set. If nothing happens or Claude Code won't open, install it first from claude.com/code before continuing.
- **To check your version:** open Terminal (press `⌘ + Space`, type "Terminal", press Enter — a plain black-and-white window will open, that's normal) and type `claude --version`. You need 2.1 or newer. If it's older, open Claude Code and run its built-in updater, or reinstall from claude.com/code.

STEP 1

Add the ECC source to Claude Code

This tells Claude Code where to find ECC. It doesn't install anything yet — just registers the source, like adding a new App Store.

1 Open Claude Code and type this, then press Enter:

```
/plugin marketplace add https://github.com/affaan-m/ECC
```

This is a normal command Claude Code understands — you're not opening a website or a new program.

STEP 2

Install the ECC plugin

1 Type this and press Enter:

```
/plugin install ecc@ecc
```

Claude Code downloads and sets up ECC's skills, agents, and commands. This can take a minute the first time and it's normal to see a lot of file activity in the response.

2 Choose a hook profile if asked

ECC may ask how strict its automatic background checks should be. Pick "standard" if you're not sure — you can change this later.

STEP 3

Confirm it worked

1 Type this and press Enter:

```
/plugin list ecc@ecc
```

If ECC shows up as installed and active, you're done — no further setup needed.

STEP 4

Use it

1 Start a new feature

Type `/ecc:plan "describe what you want to build"` — Claude Code writes a plan and waits for your approval before changing any code.

2 Review code you've written

Type `/code-review` for a separate, fresh-context check of your work.

3 Fix a broken build

Type `/build-fix`. That's it.

GOOD TO KNOW

ECC is free and MIT-licensed — no payment needed. Update it later by running the same two `/plugin` commands again. Only install from the official source above — third-party copies aren't reviewed and may not be safe.