

# Claude Code MVP Checklist: Ship Your First Product in 48 Hours

The Non-Coder's Guide to Turning Ideas into Live Products — No Tutorials, No Overwhelm

By Julian, codecoast labs GmbH — Practitioner Who Ships with Claude Daily

[Visual: 48-hour timeline with rocket launching at the end]

Download via email. Unlock the 20% of Claude that gets 80% results.

# Why You're Stuck — And How This Changes It

You've got the idea. Maybe it's been living in your notes app for months. You've watched the tutorials, bookmarked the courses, and read the "How I Built X" threads.

But every weekend ends the same way: half-finished projects, confusing error messages, and that sinking feeling of "I'm just not technical enough."

## BEFORE

- ✗ Wasted weekends on tutorials
- ✗ "One more course" syndrome
- ✗ Fear of blank editor screens
- ✗ Error messages = panic
- ✗ Ideas stay in your head

## AFTER THIS CHECKLIST

- ✓ Working product in 48 hours
- ✓ Copy-paste prompts that work
- ✓ Claude explains everything
- ✓ Errors become learning moments
- ✓ Ideas become shipped products

## My Story

I'm not a "real" developer. No CS degree. No bootcamp certificate. But I ship products constantly—landing pages, web apps, automations—all with Claude Code as my co-pilot.

This checklist is exactly what I wish I had when I started. Not theory. Not "best practices." Just a timed, step-by-step path from idea to shipped MVP.



You don't need to become a developer. You just need to ship ONE thing.

## Want Guided Support?

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Hours 1-12

## Foundation Setup

Saturday Morning

Start

25% Complete

Your only goal this morning: Get Claude Code running and prove it works. That's it. No building yet.

15 min Install Claude Code from [claude.ai/code](https://claude.ai/code) (follow the installer prompts)

5 min Open Claude Code in your terminal and verify it launches

10 min Test your first prompt: "Explain like I'm 5: What is a web app?"

20 min Create a project folder on your computer (e.g., ~/Projects/my-mvp/)

15 min Open Claude Code in that folder and ask: "Help me set up a basic project here"

30 min Build something tiny: "Create a webpage that says Hello World"

### YOUR FIRST REAL PROMPT

Copy & paste this

Explain like I'm 5: I want to build a simple todo app where I can add tasks and mark them as done. What are the pieces I need to build? Don't write any code yet—just explain the parts.



**Tip:** Ignore all the advanced features you see. You don't need agents, plugins, or MCP servers today. Just the basics.

Hours 13-24

## Core Building

Saturday Afternoon & Evening

Foundation ✓

50% Complete

Now we build. The key: break everything into tiny pieces and use the "Explain Like I'm 5" (ELI5) pattern for every prompt.

20 min Write down your MVP's 3 core features (no more than 3!)

30 min Ask Claude to build Feature #1 using the ELI5 prompt pattern

30 min Test Feature #1 — does it work? If not, paste the error to Claude

30 min Build Feature #2 the same way

30 min Build Feature #3 the same way

30 min Ask Claude to connect all features together

### THE ELI5 BUILDER PROMPT

Use this pattern for every feature

I'm a complete beginner. I need you to build [FEATURE] for my [TYPE OF APP].

Please:

1. Explain what you're about to do in simple terms
2. Write the code with lots of comments explaining each part
3. Tell me exactly where to put this code
4. Show me how to test if it works

My current project has: [DESCRIBE WHAT YOU HAVE SO FAR]

[Diagram: Prompt → Claude writes code → You test it → Works? Ship it. Broken? Paste error to Claude → Repeat]



**Tip:** "Good enough" beats "perfect" every time. You can improve it next weekend. Today, we ship.

Hours 25-36

## Testing & Polish

Sunday Morning

Core Built ✓

75% Complete

You have working features. Now let's clean up the rough edges and make sure it doesn't break.

- 30 min Walk through your app as a user — note anything confusing or broken
- 30 min Ask Claude to fix each issue, one at a time
- 45 min Ask Claude to improve the UI: "Make this look more professional"
- 30 min Test edge cases: empty inputs, weird characters, double-clicks
- 15 min Ask Claude to add basic error handling

### The "Stuck?" Framework

< 15 minutes stuck

Rephrase your prompt. Be more specific about what's wrong.

15-30 minutes stuck

Copy the exact error message. Paste it to Claude and ask "Why is this happening?"

30-60 minutes stuck

Ask Claude to "explain this code line by line" — understanding beats guessing.

> 60 minutes stuck

Skip it. Move on. Ask the community (@codecoast) or save it for next weekend.



**Tip:** Think of Claude as your junior developer. It's fast but makes mistakes. Your job: review, test, and ask clarifying questions.

Hours 37-48

## Ship & Iterate

Sunday Afternoon

Polished ✓

100% — SHIP IT!

This is it. Time to put your creation on the internet where real people can use it.

30 min Ask Claude how to deploy your specific app (see prompt below)

45 min Follow the deployment steps — ask Claude about any errors

15 min Visit your live URL. Take a screenshot. You did it.

15 min Share it somewhere: Twitter, LinkedIn, a friend, or email me!

30 min Note 3 things you'd improve next time (for next weekend)

### DEPLOYMENT PROMPT (DOCKER + VPS)

Use this exact prompt

I need to deploy this app to my VPS using Docker.

My setup:

- I have a VPS with Docker installed
- I can SSH into my server
- The app is in [DESCRIBE YOUR APP TYPE: React, Node, etc.]

Please:

1. Create a Dockerfile for this project
2. Explain each line of the Dockerfile simply
3. Give me the exact commands to build and run it
4. Show me how to set up a reverse proxy (nginx) if needed

I'm a beginner – explain everything like I'm 5.

```
# Example Docker deployment commands docker build -t my-mvp . docker run -d -p 3000:3000 --name my-app my-mvp
```



**You shipped. That's more than 99% of people with "app ideas."**

The first one is always the hardest. It gets easier from here.

# The Essentials: 5 Features + 3 Plugins

You don't need to know everything Claude Code can do. Here's the 20% that gets 80% of results.

## 5 Features You'll Actually Use



### Chat Mode

Ask questions, get explanations



### Write Files

Claude creates code files for you



### Edit Files

Claude modifies existing code



### Read Files

Claude analyzes your code



### Run Commands

Claude executes terminal commands

## 3 Plugins Worth Installing

### 1. Error Explainer

Automatically explains error messages in plain English and suggests fixes. Perfect for when you hit cryptic errors.

### 2. Code Sanity Checker

Reviews your code for common mistakes before they become bugs. Like a spell-checker for code.

### 3. Quick Docs

Generates simple documentation for your code. Helps you remember what you built later.



### Weekend MVP Blueprint (One-Pager)

## Saturday

- AM: Install + first prompt
- PM: Build 3 core features
- Eve: Connect features together

## Sunday

- AM: Test + polish UI
- PM: Deploy to your server
- Eve: Share + celebrate!

# When Things Go Wrong (And They Will)

Every builder hits walls. Here's how to get unstuck without spiraling.

## The Debug Decision Tree

**Error message?** → Copy the exact error → Paste to Claude → "Why is this happening and how do I fix it?"

**Nothing happens?** → Ask Claude: "Walk me through what this code does step by step"

**Works locally, breaks on deploy?** → Ask Claude: "What environment differences could cause this?"

**No idea what's wrong?** → Start over on that feature. Sometimes a fresh approach is faster.

**Completely stuck?** → Skip it. Move on. Ship without that feature.

## Mindset Shifts

*"Claude isn't magic — it's a multiplier. It multiplies your questions into answers, your ideas into code. But you still have to ask the right questions."*

*"Shipped beats perfect. A live ugly app teaches you more than a beautiful concept in your notes app."*

*"Errors aren't failures. They're just Claude's way of saying 'I need more information.'"*

## Join the Community

Got stuck on something specific? Have questions about your MVP?

[Find me on X/Twitter](#)

**@codecoast** — I answer questions, share shipping stories, and post tips for non-code builders. DM me your MVP link!

# You've Shipped — Now Scale



**Congratulations. You unlocked Claude Code.**

You went from idea → shipped product in 48 hours.

## What You've Learned

- Claude Code isn't scary — it's a patient co-builder
- The ELI5 prompt pattern works for any feature
- "Good enough" today beats "perfect" never
- Errors are just conversations waiting to happen
- You can ship. You just did.

## What's Next?

Now that you've shipped one MVP, you have options:

1. **Iterate** — Take user feedback and improve this weekend
2. **Ship again** — Build a different idea (you now know how)
3. **Go deeper** — Learn the advanced features (agents, plugins, MCP)

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Email me your MVP link ([julian@codecoast.ch](mailto:julian@codecoast.ch)) and I'll send you personalized feedback on what to improve. Real humans building real things — that's what this is about.

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