

Web Development Starter Checklist

This checklist offers a concise, step-by-step roadmap for new developers to ensure they follow best practices and maximize their learning effectiveness.

Before you start

1. Set up a dedicated **GitHub** account with a professional username and profile picture.
2. Install **Visual Studio Code (VS Code)** and necessary extensions (Prettier, ESLint).
3. Ensure a basic understanding of HTML, CSS, and vanilla JavaScript fundamentals.
4. Define a specific, small project goal (e.g., a one-page portfolio site) to apply learning immediately.
5. Familiarize yourself with the basic Git commands (`git init`, `git add`, `git commit`).
6. Identify one core resource for foundational knowledge (like a structured roadmap or mastery guide).

While you're working on it

1. Start every new feature or major fix on a **new branch** to isolate changes.
2. Use the VS Code integrated terminal to perform all Git operations, avoiding the desktop GUI initially.
3. Write short, descriptive **commit messages** (e.g., "FEAT: Add dark mode toggle button").
4. Test features on your local machine before committing or pushing code.
5. If stuck on a bug for more than 20 minutes, search the error on a relevant **Reddit** subreddit or use a search engine.
6. Immediately fix linter or formatter errors to maintain a clean and consistent codebase.
7. Push commits to your **GitHub** remote repository at least once per hour of coding.

Ongoing check-ins

1. Review your GitHub contribution graph weekly to ensure consistent activity, not just sporadic bursts.
2. Practice reviewing and documenting your own code by writing or updating the **README.md** file for all major projects.
3. Actively seek out "good-first-issue" tickets on open-source projects to begin collaboration.
4. Monitor your **VS Code** extensions and settings, keeping them updated for security and performance.
5. Take 15 minutes each week to read developer news or discussions on **Reddit** to stay aware of industry shifts.
6. Look back at an old project and refactor (clean up) the code to practice applying new knowledge.
7. Ensure your primary portfolio repository is public and showcases your best work and **web development for beginners github** skills.