

The Claude Routines Cheat Sheet

Automate Your Workflows with Always-On Claude AI

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What Is a Claude Routine?

Claude Routines are always-on, trigger-based workflows that run automatically — no prompting required. Unlike a regular chat session, a routine reads context from your repos and connected tools, reasons about what it finds, and takes action. Think of it as packaging your best Claude prompt and letting it run on autopilot. Available on Pro, Max, Team, and Enterprise plans.

QUICK TIPS

- Get started at: claude.ai/code/routines
- Each run counts against your subscription usage the same as an interactive session
- Existing `/schedule` tasks are automatically converted to routines — no migration needed

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Trigger 1: Scheduled

Set a cadence — hourly, nightly, weekly — and Claude executes your prompt on that schedule automatically. You write the prompt once describing what to check, what counts as important, and what to do about it. Claude handles the rest.

QUICK TIPS

- Best for: nightly bug triage, weekly docs checks, Monday morning PR cleanup
- Example: every weeknight at 11pm — read new issues, label by code area, assign owners, post Slack summary

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Trigger 2: API

Every routine gets its own endpoint and bearer token. Send an HTTP POST with an optional message parameter and get back a session URL. Fire routines from your deploy pipeline, n8n, Zapier, a monitoring alert, or any internal tool that can make an HTTP request.

QUICK TIPS

- Best for: deploy verification, alert triage, customer feedback pipelines
- The API uses the experimental-cc-routine-2026-04-01 beta header — Anthropic guarantees the two previous versions keep working during migration

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Trigger 3: GitHub Events

Subscribe a routine to fire automatically on pull requests, pushes, releases, issues, check runs, and more. For PRs, Claude opens one session per PR and continues responding as reviewers comment or CI updates — no re-triggering needed. Filter by author, branch, labels, draft state, and more.

QUICK TIPS

- Best for: automated code review, PR security checks, release notes generation
- Anthropic uses this internally — every release branch merge fires a routine to update documentation

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Writing Prompts That Actually Work

Each routine run is stateless — the prompt carries the entire job spec. Every great routine prompt answers five questions: (1) What to check — specific data source. (2) What counts as important — clear criteria. (3) What to do about it — concrete actions. (4) When to stop — escalation rules. (5) What to do on failure — explicit fallback behavior.

QUICK TIPS

- Test manually in a Claude Code session 3–5 times before converting to a routine
- One routine, one job — focused prompts outperform multi-task prompts every time

3 Routines to Build First

Start with the routine that saves you the most repetitive time. Top three high-value starting points: (1) Nightly Bug Triage — runs every weeknight, labels issues, assigns owners, posts Slack summary. (2) Automated Code Review — triggers on every PR open, leaves inline comments so humans focus on architecture. (3) Deploy Verification — API trigger from your CD pipeline, runs smoke checks, posts go/no-go to your release channel.

QUICK TIPS

- You can combine multiple triggers on the same routine for maximum coverage
- Connect Slack, Linear, GitHub, and Google Drive so routines can read and write where your team already works

Ready to go deeper?

This cheat sheet is just the start. Get more Claude automations, templates, and tools — free access below.

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