



Installation Checklist

Before the cable, at the cable, after first boot · belongs to Chapters 4 and 5 · Device: _____ · Date: _____

Read first, then plug in. The installation is not an update running in the background but a fresh start: the bootloader is unlocked, the system replaced, the device wiped completely. If you work through this list beforehand, there is nothing left to decide at the cable. The sheet deliberately names no menu paths, because interfaces age. It names what has to be done.

1 · BEFORE THE CABLE

Item	OK	Note
Backup of the old system exists and was opened once as a test. Photos, contacts, calendar, messenger histories, above all the two-factor tokens. The device is wiped completely when the bootloader is unlocked.		
Model is on the official list of supported devices. End of support noted from grapheneos.org, so the lifespan is clear from the start.		Support until: _____
If bought used: OEM unlocking can be enabled. A device where this stays locked is useless for GrapheneOS (Chapter 3).		
Data cable, not a charging cable. Original USB-C cable or one that demonstrably carries data. Device and computer charged or plugged in.		
Browser: Chromium-based, normal window, no private mode. Brave only with Shields disabled, no Snap or Flatpak browsers (which rules out Ubuntu's Chromium). No USB hub, no virtual machine. On Linux, the udev rules installed once, otherwise no extra software needed.		
On the device: Developer options enabled, OEM unlocking allowed. Without this toggle the bootloader stays closed and nothing proceeds.		
Chapter 4 read in full once, official guide on grapheneos.org open. A quiet hour set aside.		

2 · AT THE CABLE: THE FOUR PHASES

No	Phase	How you know it is right	Done
A	Unlock bootloader. The device shows a warning screen. It is intentional, not a fault. Select with the volume buttons, confirm with the Power button.	From now on the device is empty.	
B	Download release. The installer downloads the current system image.	Message that the storage quota has been exceeded: leave private mode, use a normal window, if needed switch to another supported browser.	
C	Flash release. The image is written, the device restarts several times during the process.	Cable stays connected, touch nothing until the browser confirms completion.	
D	Lock bootloader. Not optional but the security-critical final step.	Display shows Device State: locked . That is the goal.	

⚠ **An open bootloader after installation is not a finished system but a security risk.** Phase D is never done "later". ⚠ **No private browsing mode.** The restricted cache makes the download fail regularly. ⚠ **Warranty:** On the Pixel, unlocking is intended by Google and fully reversible (Chapter 24). Still: your device, your responsibility.

3 · AFTER FIRST BOOT

Item	OK	Note
Yellow warning seen during boot ("loading a different operating system"). It stays at every boot and shows that Verified Boot is working.		
Verified boot key hash compared: value from the warning screen against the value for your model on grapheneos.org. If it matches, the installed system was signed with the GrapheneOS key.		matches: _____
OEM unlocking disabled again. Otherwise the bootloader could be unlocked again with physical access. GrapheneOS recommends disabling it as a smaller attack surface.		
First system update completed and device rebooted afterwards.		Version: _____

4 · BASIC CONFIGURATION IN SEVEN POINTS (CHAPTER 5)

Item	OK	Note
Auto reboot enabled, interval chosen deliberately. After the reboot no keys remain in working memory.		Interval: _____
Duress password set, safely memorized, written down nowhere. It wipes the device irreversibly, eSIMs included.		
Private DNS in the system set to "Off" , DNS runs through the VPN tunnel. Otherwise Private DNS takes priority over the VPN's DNS and collides with the kill switch (Chapter 20).		
Always-on VPN with kill switch (Block connections without VPN), behavior when the tunnel drops tried out once.		
At least one additional profile created, for example for banking. The profile plan is on its own workshop sheet.		
Quick tiles for camera and microphone added to the notification bar.		
Backup configured, recovery code on paper , not digital, not on the device. First backup completed.		Code kept at: _____

Enter the location of the recovery code only as a short code that means something to you alone, say "S2" for a safe compartment or "FM" for the folder at a family member. This sheet may be found without giving anything away.

Contains no secrets and may be kept with your documents – still: no unlock code, no duress password, no recovery code written on it

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