How to Start Homesteading

A simple, realistic guide for beginners

Step 1: Define Your Goal

Before you start, ask yourself:

- I want to grow my own food
- I want to save money on groceries
- I want a slower, more intentional lifestyle
- I want to learn from-scratch skills
- Choose ONE main focus for your first year.

Step 2: Start Small

Choose 1–2 projects only:

- Start a small garden (raised bed or containers)
- Grow herbs or lettuce
- Start seeds indoors
- Cook 2–3 meals from scratch each week
- Try one food preservation method

Step 3: Set Up Your Space

- Choose a garden location (sunlight!)
- Gather basic supplies (soil, seeds, containers)
- Set up a simple watering plan
- Keep it manageable

Step 4: Build Simple Habits

- Check plants daily (water, observe)
- Cook at home more often
- Learn one new skill per month
- Keep a simple notebook of what works

Step 5: Evaluate Before Expanding

After your first season, ask:

- Did I enjoy this?
- Was it manageable with my schedule?
- What worked well?
- What felt overwhelming? Only expand if it felt sustainable

Step 6: Consider Expanding (Year 2)

- Add a second garden bed
- Try a new crop
- Learn a second preservation method
- Consider chickens (if it fits your lifestyle)
- Invest in preservation methods that interest you (pressure canner, dehydrator, freeze dryer, etc

You do NOT need to do everything at once. A successful homestead is built slowly, over time.
Start small. Stay consistent. Keep going.

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