

Agent-Agnostic Setup Checklist

One canon for Claude Code, Codex and Cursor. Set it up once, switch agents for free.

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The Idea

AGENTS.md

Holds all shared instructions – the single source of truth across all agents.

.agents/skills/

Holds all skills. Codex and Cursor read both directly. Claude Code gets a one-line bridge.

Repo Level Structure

```
repo/  
  AGENTS.md          <- the canon  
  CLAUDE.md          <- one line: @AGENTS.md  
  .agents/skills/<skill>/SKILL.md <- all skills  
  .claude/skills -> ../agents/skills
```

```
echo '@AGENTS.md' > CLAUDE.md  
mkdir -p .claude && ln -s ../agents/skills .claude/skills
```

Repo-Level Checklist

- ☐ All shared rules are in AGENTS.md, not in copies
- ☐ Critical rules are inside AGENTS.md itself (@imports work only in Claude Code)
- ☐ Long reference docs in .agents/docs/, with a sentence in AGENTS.md that says when to read them
- ☐ CLAUDE.md has only @AGENTS.md (+ Claude-only notes below)

User-Level Setup

User Level Structure

```
~/agents/AGENTS.md    <- your global instructions
~/agents/skills       -> ~/.claude/skills
~/claude/CLAUDE.md    <- @~/agents/AGENTS.md
~/codex/AGENTS.md     -> ~/.agents/AGENTS.md
```

```
mkdir -p ~/.agents ~/.claude/skills ~/.codex
# put your global instructions into ~/.agents/AGENTS.md first
echo '@~/agents/AGENTS.md' > ~/.claude/CLAUDE.md
ln -sf ~/.agents/AGENTS.md ~/.codex/AGENTS.md
ln -s ~/.claude/skills ~/.agents/skills
```

User-Level Checklist

- ☐ Cursor: paste ~/.agents/AGENTS.md into Settings → Rules → User Rules (Cursor has no global file)
- ☐ New personal skill → ~/.agents/skills/<name>/ – all agents see it right away

Cursor Rules → Canon Mapping

Cursor	Goes to
Always Apply rule, .cursorrules	A section in AGENTS.md
Apply Intelligently / Specific Files / Manually	A skill in .agents/skills/
.cursor/commands/*.md	A skill in .agents/skills/

Migration & Verification

Migrate Many Repos

- ☐ Back up agent config files (one .tgz)
- ☐ Phase 1: read-only inventory by an agent → you review it
- ☐ Conflicts between files: the agent lists them, YOU decide (never "keep the newer wording")
- ☐ Phase 2: migrate one repo at a time, agent config files only
- ☐ Commit only agent config paths

Full migration prompt: neurycode.com/blog/agents-md-claude-code-codex-cursor

2-Minute Test After Every Switch

Open the new agent in a couple of random repos and ask:

Without reading *any* files, list *every* skill you can see *and* the file it comes from. *Then* quote the *first* line *of* your project instructions.

- ☐ Each skill appears once
- ☐ The agent sees your AGENTS.md
- ☐ No skills yet? Add a marker line to AGENTS.md + a temporary skill, check, delete

What Does Not Move

⚠ Hooks, MCP server configs, permissions, model choice, plugins, Cursor User Rules. Keep a short list per tool and set them up by hand.

Read the full guide: neurycode.com/blog/agents-md-claude-code-codex-cursor