

Shopify App Architecture Pre Build Checklist

For apps submitted to the Shopify App Store. A custom app built for one store does not go through that review. Written against API version 2026-07, sources checked 1 August 2026.

Work through it before the feature work, not after.

1. Compliance Webhooks, The One With A Stated Consequence

Shopify: if you do not provide URLs for the mandatory compliance webhooks, or your app does not respond to these webhooks as required, then your app will be rejected and you will need to fix the identified problem before submitting your app for another review.

- ☐ `customers/data_request` implemented. Requests to view stored customer data.
- ☐ `customers/redact` implemented. Requests to delete customer data.
- ☐ `shop/redact` implemented. Requests to delete shop data.
- ☐ Each returns a **200 series status code**.
- ☐ Each completes the action within **30 days** of receiving the request, allowing for legally required data retention.
- ☐ Each accepts POST with a JSON body and `Content-Type: application/json`.
- ☐ An invalid Shopify HMAC header returns **401 Unauthorized**.

2. The Data Model Question Behind Them

This section is our reading of what the above requires, not additional Shopify text.

- ☐ Write down every place the app stores customer data.
- ☐ Write down every place it stores shop data.
- ☐ For each, name how it would be found given only a shop or customer identifier.
- ☐ Confirm `shop/redact` can actually reach all of it.
- ☐ Confirm deletion does not break referential integrity elsewhere.
- ☐ Decide what "delete" means for backups and logs.

3. OAuth

Shopify: your app should immediately authorize using OAuth before any other steps occur, even if the merchant has previously installed and then uninstalled your app.

- ☐ OAuth is the single entry point.
- ☐ No branch skips it for a shop the app has seen before.
- ☐ Reinstall after uninstall goes through OAuth again.
- ☐ Session storage does not assume a prior install.

4. Billing

Shopify: your app should allow merchants to upgrade and downgrade their pricing plan without having to contact your support team or having to reinstall the app.

- ☐ Upgrade works in app.
- ☐ Downgrade works in app.
- ☐ Neither requires contacting support.
- ☐ Neither requires reinstalling.
- ☐ Plan state is stored somewhere that survives independently of the install record.
- ☐ The pricing model has been checked against this before it was agreed commercially.

5. Performance

Shopify: your app shouldn't reduce Lighthouse performance scores by more than 10 points.

- ☐ A baseline Lighthouse score recorded before the app is installed.
- ☐ The same measured after installation.
- ☐ Difference is within 10 points.
- ☐ Storefront assets load only on pages where the feature is used.
- ☐ Anything injected is measured, not assumed.

6. What Review Will Ask For

Shopify: provide clear instructions and a complete screencast showing your app's setup process and functionality. If your app integrates with third-party platforms, include valid test credentials that grant full access.

- ☐ Written setup instructions prepared.
- ☐ Screencast covers setup **and** functionality, end to end.
- ☐ For every third party integration, a test account exists.
- ☐ Those credentials grant full access, not a limited demo.
- ☐ Somebody owns keeping those accounts alive until review completes.

7. Sequence

- ☐ Sections 1 to 4 settled before feature work begins.
- ☐ Section 5 measured during, not at the end.
- ☐ Section 6 arranged before submission is scheduled.

8. Sources

1. app requirements checklist
shopify.dev
2. privacy law compliance
shopify.dev

Both checked 1 August 2026, against API version 2026-07.

Free Shopify Store Audit

The form asks for your website or store URL and a note on what is eating the time. An app you are about to commission is a reasonable thing to put in that box. The audit costs nothing.

edm-uk.com/#form-start

Expert Digital Marketing Ltd. Accompanies the article at
edm-uk.com/shopify/apps

Free audit:
edm-uk.com/#form-start