

PayAPI Market

Provider Playbook

List your API. Get verified. Let agents pay you per call.

A simple guide for builders who want AI agents to discover, pay for, and use their APIs without API keys or approval loops.

payapi.market

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Listing is free. Providers keep 100% of what buyers pay. The verified badge means we paid from our own wallet and got real product.

Chapter 1. What PayAPI is

Goal: Understand why agents need this and what the badge means.

AI agents hit paywalls constantly. Sign up, get a key, enter a card, wait for approval. An agent can't do any of that. It stops and waits for a human.

The **x402** protocol fixes this. An endpoint returns **HTTP 402** with a price. The agent pays in **USDC on Base**. The data comes back. No account, no API key, sub-cent amounts, settled in about a second.

PayAPI Market is a marketplace for those endpoints. Anyone can list. What makes it different is that **we check**. Verified listings were paid for from our wallet, on-chain, and returned real product. If it didn't return real data, it doesn't get the badge. The transaction hash is on Base and anyone can look it up.

How agents pay for data



Figure 1. How agents pay for data

Old way vs PayAPI way

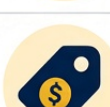
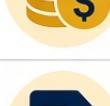
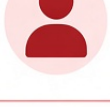
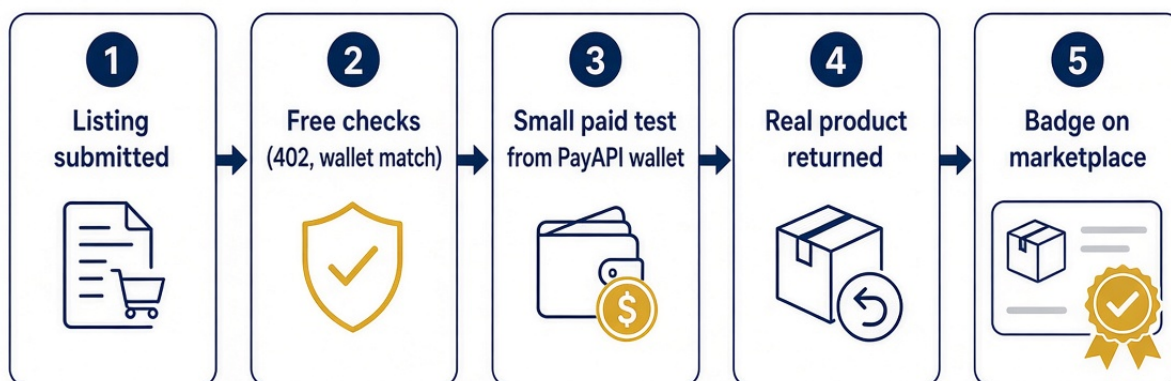
Traditional APIs	x402 on PayAPI
 Sign up	 AI agent calls
 API key	 HTTP 402 + price
 Enter card	 Pays USDC on Base
 Wait for approval	 Gets data instantly
 Human required	

Figure 2. Traditional APIs vs x402 on PayAPI

What the verified badge means

Not "the server is up." It means we paid, got real product, and the money went to the listed wallet.

What the verified badge means



★ *Verified through listing, checks, testing, and real return.*

Figure 3. From listing to badge

Who gets paid

Listing is free. You keep **100%** of what buyers pay. PayAPI does not take a cut of the USDC transfer.

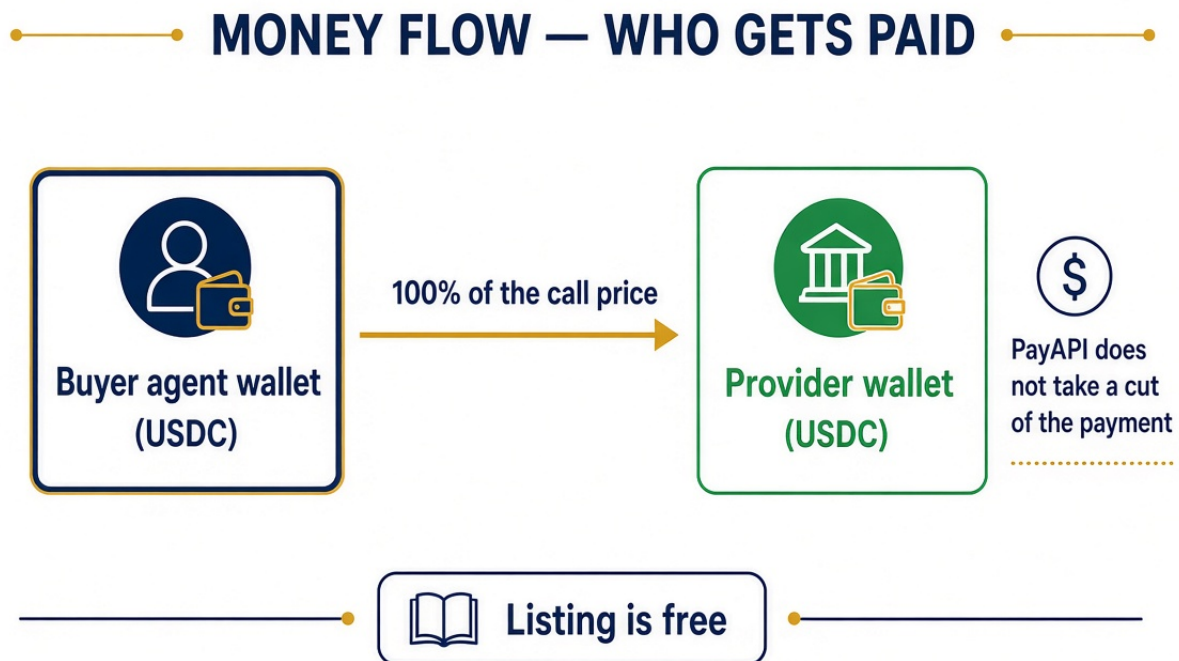


Figure 4. Money flow

Chapter 2. Get a Base wallet

Goal: Receive payments on Base with a public address you control.

1. Download a wallet that supports Base (Coinbase Wallet or MetaMask).
2. Create a new wallet. Write the recovery phrase offline. Never share it.
3. Switch network to **Base** (mainnet).
4. Copy your address. It starts with **0x...**. This is your payTo / listing wallet.
5. Optional: hold a little USDC on Base if you want to test your own API. Sellers receive USDC. They don't need a balance to list.

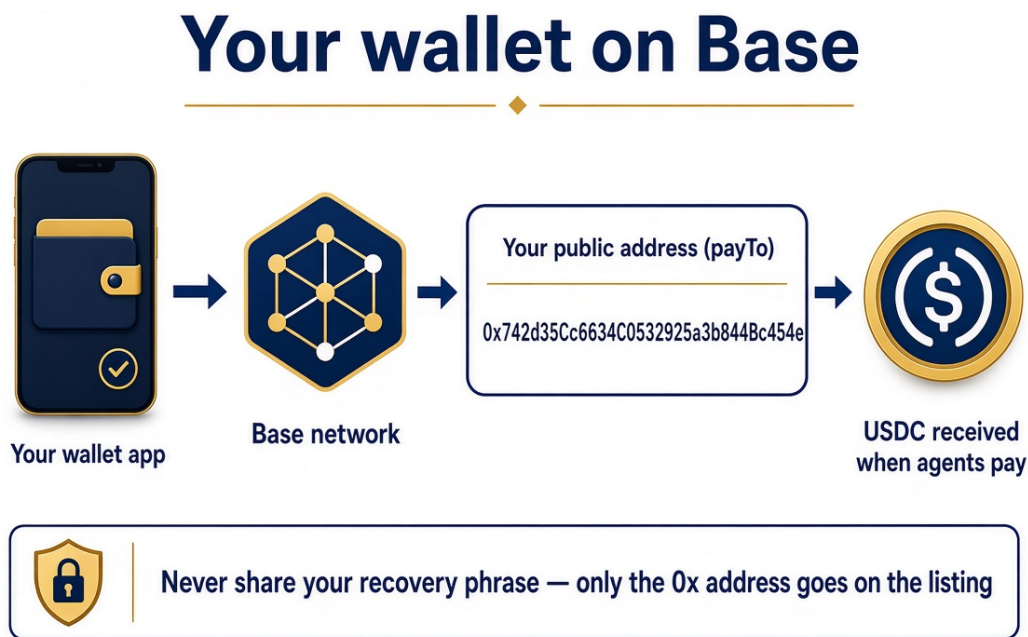


Figure 5. Your wallet on Base

Common mistakes

Mistake	Fix
Wallet only on Ethereum mainnet	Switch to Base
USDC on the wrong chain	Send or hold USDC on Base
Different address in code vs form	Same 0x account everywhere
Sharing the seed phrase	Only the 0x address is public

Chapter 3. Make your API return HTTP 402

Goal: Unpaid callers get a price challenge. Paid callers get the product.

When an agent calls your endpoint without paying, return **HTTP 402 Payment Required** plus a description of the price, network, and your wallet. Only after payment should you return the data (usually HTTP 200).

The payment loop



Figure 6. The payment loop

Rules that matter on PayAPI

Rule	Why
Network = Base (eip155:8453)	Where settlements happen
Asset = canonical USDC	What agents expect
payTo = your listing wallet	Must match the form exactly
extra.name = "USD Coin"	Not "USDC". The wrong name breaks payment.
Price matches your listing	Agents budget against the card
Unpaid must not return the product	Free leak means no real paywall

Write **USD Coin** — not **USDC**



CHALLENGE FIELD
extra.name equals
"USD Coin"



SETTLES CORRECTLY
The transaction is valid and accepted.



CHALLENGE FIELD
extra.name equals
"USDC"



PAYMENT FAILS / SIGNATURE MISMATCH
The signature is rejected. Payment fails.



USDC is the symbol. USD Coin is the on-chain name used for signing.

Figure 7. Write "USD Coin", not "USDC"

payTo must match your listing wallet

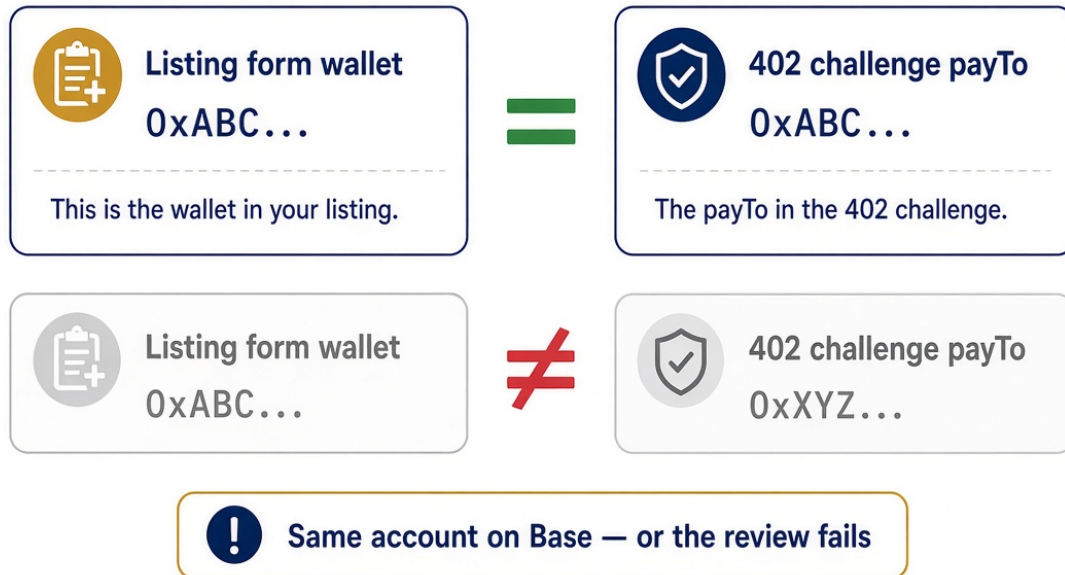


Figure 8. payTo must match your listing wallet

Self-check before you list

- Public URL (no login wall)
- Unpaid call returns HTTP 402
- payTo matches your Base address
- extra.name is "USD Coin"
- Price matches what you'll put on the form

Chapter 4. Submit and what review does

Goal: Enter the queue the right way and know what happens next.

Go to <https://payapi.market> and use the list / submit form. Email is fine for questions. Listings are created through the form so automatic checks can run.

What to enter

Field	What to put
API name	Clear product name
Base URL	Public URL that returns 402
Wallet	Your Base 0x address (same as payTo)
Price range	Min to max USDC per call, matching live challenges
Category	Data, Tools, etc.
Description	Short and honest

From submit to badge



Figure 9. From submit to badge

1. **Auto triage.** Is the host stable? Real 402? Does payTo match? You may get an email within minutes.
2. **Human review.** Does the product look real? Is the challenge honest? No badge yet.
3. **Free checks.** We call without paying.
4. **Paid canary.** One small payment (often \$0.001 to \$0.01) from our wallet. Data must be real. Money goes to your wallet.
5. **Badge.** Only with explicit approval. Nothing is auto-badged.

What we check

Free checks	Paid canary	Badge
 402 response	 small USDC payment	 live listing
 wallet match	 real data returned	 payment verified
 no free data leak	 money to your wallet	 on-chain receipt

Figure 10. What we check

You keep 100% of buyer payments. Listing is free. If something fails, we give a concrete reason when we can. Fix it, then reply or resubmit.

Chapter 5. After you're live

Goal: *Help agents find you and call you without a human in the middle.*

Your listing is on the marketplace. With a badge, careful agents can trust the price and wallet. Buyers pay you directly in USDC on Base. You still host the API. PayAPI does not proxy the data.

Make yourself easy to discover

Add **/well-known/x402** and/or OpenAPI if you can. Keep a public base URL. Agents can also search the marketplace discovery API, for example <https://payapi.market/agent/search?q=your-topic>. You appear there by being live, not by a separate signup.

Getting traffic

- Badge and clear name/category beat vague branding.
- Stable uptime. Agents drop flaky endpoints.
- Share your listing URL on LinkedIn, X, and in your docs.
- Document one exact example input that returns a known answer.

Weekly health habit

1. Unpaid call still returns 402?
2. payTo still your wallet?
3. Price still matches the card?
4. One known input still returns real data?

Chapter 6. Common rejects and how to fix them

Goal: Fix the real problem fast and get back into review.

Top fixes before you resubmit



1 Stable domain not tunnel



2 USD Coin not USDC



3 payTo matches form wallet



4 Unpaid returns 402 only



5 Per-call not prepaid credits

Figure 11. Top fixes before you resubmit

1. Temporary host

Tunnels and sandbox domains change or die. Use a custom domain or durable platform host.

2. extra.name is USDC

Must be "USD Coin" (the on-chain name). "USDC" is only the symbol. Payments fail otherwise.

3. payTo does not match the form wallet

Same Base account in the challenge and on the listing form.

4. No real paywall

Unpaid requests must get 402 only. Full free data means there is nothing to verify.

5. Prepaid credits

Badge path is pay-per-call. Credit packs can live on your site. List a true per-request route for verification.

6. Protected URL

No login or SSO wall on the agent route. Public URL required.

7. Duplicate route slices

One product means one listing. Don't submit every path as a separate card.

8. Accept path broken

402 is not enough. Valid payment must return 200 and the product.

9. Price mismatch

Live challenge amounts must match the min and max on your card.

10. Stub after payment

Empty or demo-only bodies fail the canary. Return real data for the request.

After you fix

Confirm unpaid returns 402, payTo is correct, and extra.name is USD Coin. Then reply on the same thread or resubmit. We re-run free checks, then one small paid test if everything is clean.

FAQ. Quick answers

Q. Is listing free?

A. Yes. There is no fee to submit or stay listed.

Q. Do you take a cut of payments?

A. No. Buyers pay your wallet directly. You keep 100% of the call price.

Q. Do I need Stripe or a credit-card account?

A. No. Settlement is USDC on Base via x402.

Q. Why did my payment test fail even though 402 looks fine?

A. Most often extra.name is "USDC" instead of "USD Coin". Fix that first.

Q. Can I use a Cloudflare quick tunnel or similar?

A. No. Hosts must be stable. Use a custom domain or a durable platform host.

Q. How long until I get a badge?

A. If free checks pass and the canary returns real product, often the same day once a human approves.

Q. How do agents find my API?

A. Through the marketplace (including /agent/search) and through your own discovery files such as /.well-known/x402 and OpenAPI.

Q. Can I sell prepaid credits?

A. On your own site, yes. The payment-verified badge is for true per-call routes.

Q. Can I list many paths of the same product separately?

A. Usually no. One listing per product. Distinct products on one host are fine.

Q. Who do I contact?

A. Submit via the form on payapi.market first. For questions: chet@payapi.market.

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This playbook is for providers. Verification is always human-gated. Never auto-badge. Never share your wallet recovery phrase.