

# Run Android Apps on Your Raspberry Pi in Minutes with Waydroid

*Turn any Pi 4 or 5 into a snappy Android workstation - no clunky emulators required*

Say goodbye to juggling extra phones or tablets; your Pi is about to handle those Android-only apps like a champ.

## Why Bother?

Some smart-home gadgets still expect you to live inside their mobile app.

Waydroid lets you open those apps right on your Raspberry Pi -

so you can tweak schedules, view logs, or test Android builds without switching devices.

## How Waydroid Works (The 30-Second Version)

- \* Container, not emulator - Waydroid drops a full Android system into an LXC container.
- \* Near-native speed - It taps your Pi's GPU and shares your network, clipboard, audio, and notifications.
- \* Windows or full-screen - Run Android in its own window, or blow it up to fill the desktop.

Heads-up: Google Play Services aren't pre-installed, but the docs show you how to add them in minutes.

Hardware-heavy apps (GPS, accelerometer, cellular) may still act up.

## What You'll Need

Checklist	Minimum	Recommended
Pi model	Pi 4 or 5	Pi 5
RAM	4 GB	8 GB
OS	64-bit Raspberry Pi OS (Bookworm) or any 64-bit Linux	
Display server	Wayland	Wayland + Labwc

Add an active cooler and a solid 5 V power supply. Stability first, frustration never.

## Step 1 - Make Sure You're on Wayland

1. Open a terminal: `sudo raspi-config`
2. Advanced Options -> Wayland

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3. Pick Labwc (Wayland backend)
4. Log out and select the Wayland session - or just reboot.
5. Still unsure? Run: `echo $XDG_SESSION_TYPE`; it should say wayland.

## Step 2 - Prep the Pi

```
sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y
sudo apt install curl lsb-release -y
```

Pi 5 users only:

1. `sudo nano /boot/firmware/config.txt`
2. Add: `kernel=kernel8.img` at the top, save, reboot.
3. Confirm page size: `getconf PAGESIZE` -> should be 4096.
4. Enable PSI: `sudo nano /boot/firmware/cmdline.txt` -> append `psi=1`, save, reboot again.

## Step 3 - Install Waydroid

```
# Add signing key
sudo curl -Sf https://repo.waydro.id/waydroid.gpg \
    --output /usr/share/keyrings/waydroid.gpg

# Add repository
echo "deb [signed-by=/usr/share/keyrings/waydroid.gpg] \
https://repo.waydro.id/ $(lsb_release -cs) main" | \
sudo tee /etc/apt/sources.list.d/waydroid.list

sudo apt update
sudo apt install waydroid -y

# Initialize (add -s GAPPS if you want the Play Store)
sudo waydroid init -s GAPPS
```

Launch Waydroid from the Start Menu -> Other.

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First run takes a minute; Android Clock app will appear when it's ready.

## Daily-Use Impressions

- \* Smart-home apps feel native - perfect for devices that refuse to offer web dashboards.
- \* Utility and productivity tools are smooth; keyboard, mouse, and scrolling all behave.
- \* Light gaming works, but don't expect high-end titles or flawless streaming.

Alt-Tabbing between Android and Linux keeps your workflow tidy - no more hunting for your phone mid-project.

## The Bottom Line

Waydroid turns your Pi into a surprisingly capable Android box with almost zero overhead.

If you already have a Pi 4 or 5 and a few stubborn mobile-only apps, give it an evening - you'll wonder how you lived without it.

## Want more fun Raspberry Pi projects?

Download our full project book from [PiPlayground.site](https://PiPlayground.site)

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