

AGENTS.md Is Not a Fence

Instructions are context, not enforcement.

A rule in markdown has the
exact enforcement power of
a sticky note.

Under context pressure,
the agent will ignore it.



Prose Proposes, Hooks Dispose



Deterministic code
sitting between
the agent and the
outcome works
instantly.



Agents have
strong priors (e.g.,
politeness) that
easily override
soft text rules.



A README is Just a Wish with Good Grammar



Wish: Domain stays pure.

➔ **Wall:** Linter
(no-restricted-imports)

Wish: No huge files.

➔ **Wall:**
CI giant-file check

Wish: Verify before done.

➔ **Wall:**
Unified CI command

The Trap of Context Pollution

Adding rules dilutes the ones that actually matter.



Global (AGENTS.md):
Tiny. Routing maps & universal habits.

Module-local:
Scoped exceptions.

Skills: On-demand multi-step runbooks.

Task Prompt:
The current goal.

Write Less, Enforce More.