



PRODUCT BACKLOG Grooming

The **Product Backlog Grooming** refers to activities that help us keeping the product backlog in optimal form. These activities can be split to: (1) creating and refining (adding details) to backlog items, (2) estimating them and (3) prioritization.

? Why?

TO EMBRACE CHANGE

Grooming sessions allow us to embrace change: add new items, remove items that are not relevant anymore or do not contribute to business goals, analyze details of items that approach implementation.

TO MAKE ITEMS READY

Product Backlog Grooming activities ensure that we have just enough items ready for implementation. Studies show that items elaborated before the iteration are more likely to be completed in comparison with items not being elaborated.

? Who?



? What?

Backlog grooming is an **ongoing collaborative effort** led by a Product Owner. Stakeholders participation as well as development team participation is essential to having good conversations and create shared understanding.

Review

Create shared understanding, clarify what is needed, dare to remove what's not needed, add new items.

Refine

Add details: create models, UI sketches, write acceptance criteria, split stories into smaller bites.

Resize

Estimate items, decompose when needed remembering to create items small enough to fit in an iteration and valuable at the same time.

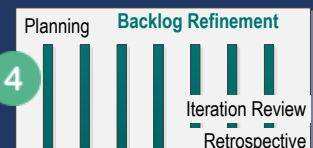
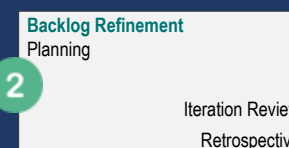
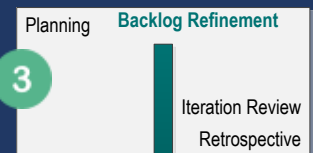
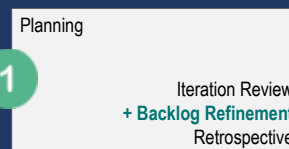
Prioritize

Ensuring the items with the biggest business value get to the top of the backlog.

? When to hold a backlog grooming session?

There are different options when to groom the backlog. It is up to the team to decide what works for them. Most teams choose from one of the following:

1. In the **Iteration Review Meeting**
2. In a separate meeting **prior to Iteration Planning Meeting**
3. In a separate meeting **couple of days before the end of the iteration**
4. **Continuously** (every day a bit of grooming)



Dedicate **5-10 % of the iteration duration** to the backlog grooming activities