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Which plugins an online shop really needs, and which to leave out

Online Stores

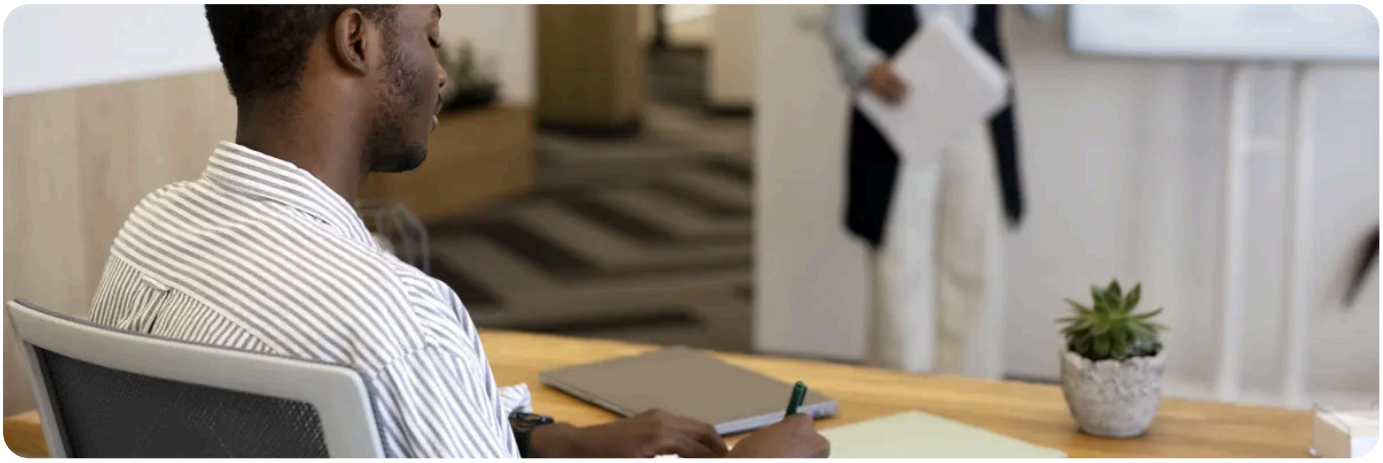
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Which plugins an online shop really needs, and which to leave out

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Search for “best WooCommerce plugins” and you get lists of thirty. A real shop needs **few**, and every extra plugin is one more thing to update, one more door for security holes and more weight on every page. What follows is a list by *function*, not by brand, so you can see what you lack and leave the rest.

The functions a shop has to cover

Function	Plugin needed?	Note
Page cache	Yes, just one	On our servers LiteSpeed is the server's own, with its plugin. See **the first settings**.
Payment	Yes, your provider's	The plugin comes from the operator or aggregator you signed with. See **connecting a payment method**.
Reliable e-mail	Usually yes	A plugin that sends over SMTP, with a mailbox on your domain. See **sending e-mail with SMTP**.
Security	Yes, one	To protect the login and report changes. See **protecting the login**.
Data for Google (SEO)	Yes, one	See **the best SEO plugins and how to choose one**.
PDF invoices	Depends	If you need to issue invoices from orders. See **invoices for your shop customers**.
Backups	Often not	Accounts already have a daily backup in the panel; a plugin is only needed for a copy outside the server.
Anti-spam	Yes, if you allow sign-ups	A captcha or equivalent on registration and checkout. See **fake orders and spam sign-ups**.

How to choose a plugin without regretting it

1. **Check the date of the last update** on the plugin page. A plugin that has not been updated for a long time is a risk, however well it does what you want.

2. **Check which WordPress and WooCommerce versions it was tested with.** The page says so. Outside those, it is a gamble.

3. **Read the bad reviews.** The good ones all look alike; the bad ones say what the plugin does wrong.

4. **Install it on a test site first**, never on the shop that is selling. See **a test site before touching what is live**.

5. **Measure before and after.** If the shop got slower, the plugin is the first suspect. See **how to measure speed**.

A "free" plugin downloaded from a strange site
is one of the commonest ways a shop gets infected. Install only from the official WordPress directory or the author's own site, and delete the ones you do not use: deactivated is not enough, it has to be removed.

Fewer functions to cover, not more plugins.
Before installing, check whether the theme or WooCommerce already does it. And remember that we neither sell nor install third-party plugins: what a plugin does is for its author to answer. See **where, which ones and how many**.

NEED A HAND?

Did the shop slow down or throw an error after you installed a plugin? Tell us which one and the time, and we will see what the server logged.

Open a support ticket →

In our plans

Some of the functions in the table are already covered by the plan, so you can leave the plugin out:

- **Backups.** Every shared plan has an automatic daily backup, with restores at no cost. A backup plugin is only worth it for a copy kept outside the server. To see which restore points exist, open JetBackup (or Backups) in cPanel.
- **Shop e-mail.** E-mail accounts are unlimited, so create a mailbox on your domain (for example shop@) just for the SMTP plugin. Order e-mails count against the hourly limit: 100 on Pro, 200 on Plus, 300 on Ultra.
- **Weight.** After adding a plugin, look at Resource Usage in cPanel to see whether CPU or memory went up.

SEE ALSO

Installing WordPress plugins: where, which and how many →

A shop that holds up: before you open →

WordPress hosting →

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