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# n8n and WordPress: posts and WooCommerce orders

Automation & n8n

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# n8n and WordPress: posts and WooCommerce orders

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n8n talks to WordPress through WordPress's own **REST API**. That allows two things: n8n can **create or update posts** on your site, and WooCommerce can **notify n8n** when an order comes in. The site can be on a hosting plan and n8n on a VPS: they are different machines, and that is fine.

## The credentials, and why there are two

| For | Credential | Where it comes from |
|---|---|---|
| **Creating and editing posts** | User name and **application password**. | Generated in a WordPress user's profile. Works only on sites with HTTPS. |
| **Reading and managing the shop** | The WooCommerce REST API **key and secret**. | Generated in the advanced WooCommerce settings, choosing whether they only read or also write. |

The exact names of the screens vary between WordPress and WooCommerce versions; both are described in their own documentation. What matters is the rule: **one credential per purpose, with the fewest powers**.

## Connecting the two

1. **Confirm the site answers on HTTPS** and that pretty permalinks are not set to plain. Without them the REST API returns 404. See **WordPress permalinks and the 404 that follows**.

2. **Create a user just for n8n**, with the lowest role that will do. See **adding a WordPress user, and which role to give them**.

3. **Generate the application password** for that user and save it at once: it is shown only once. You can revoke it without changing the account password.

4 **Create the credential in n8n** with the site address, the user name and the application password. On the first test, create the post as a **draft**, not published.

5 **For the shop**, generate the WooCommerce REST API key and secret and create the credential. To receive orders, use the n8n WooCommerce trigger, or create a webhook in the shop pointing at the production address of a Webhook node. See **n8n webhooks**.

6 **Pick the right event.** A *created* order is not paid yet. If the workflow notifies the customer or handles deliveries, filter on the "paid" or "processing" status.

## When it fails

| Error | Likely cause | What to do |
|---|---|---|
| **401 unauthorised** | Wrong user name or application password, or the authentication header being stripped before it reaches WordPress. | Generate a new application password and test. If it persists, look at your server or a security plugin. |
| **403 forbidden** | A security plugin or the firewall blocks your VPS IP. | See **why your IP gets blocked**. |
| **404 no route** | Permalinks on plain, or the site address mistyped. | Save the permalinks again; check the address. |
| **The shop stopped notifying** | WooCommerce disables a webhook that fails several times in a row. | Fix the workflow, then re-enable the webhook in the shop. |
| **Shop e-mails do not arrive** | An e-mail problem, not an n8n one. | See **WooCommerce e-mails not arriving**. |

**The application password carries the powers of its user.**
If that user is an administrator, whoever steals it controls the site. Always use a user with the minimum role, and a shop credential that only reads if the workflow only reads.

**Rehearse on a test site**
before pointing the workflow at the live one. See **a test site before touching what is live**.

RECOMMENDED

Do not have the WordPress site or shop set up yet?

**See WordPress hosting →**

SEE ALSO

- **WordPress hosting** →
- **Getting paid: connecting a payment method to WooCommerce** →
- **n8n webhooks: test URL and production URL** →
- **Securing n8n: access, credentials and exposed webhooks** →

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