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WooCommerce High-Performance Order Storage (HPOS): what it is and whether to switch

Online Stores

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WooCommerce High-Performance Order Storage (HPOS): what it is and whether to switch

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The short answer: HPOS is a newer way for WooCommerce to store orders, in tables of their own rather than mixed with the pages and posts of WordPress. In recent WooCommerce versions new shops start with it switched on. On an older shop, you switch only when you choose to, **after taking a backup and checking your plugins**.

Before, each order was stored as if it were a page, in the same table as all the other content of the site. With HPOS orders live in tables of their own. It is a change of storage: the shop looks the same to buyers, and orders still appear in the same place in the dashboard. What the WooCommerce documentation presents as the benefit is the shop coping better with many orders; that is the project's claim, and the gain on your shop depends on the shop.

Where to see it and where to change it

In the WordPress dashboard go to **WooCommerce, Settings, Advanced, Features**. In the order data storage section there are two options: the old storage, in WordPress "posts", and the high-performance one. The same page has a box that keeps the two in sync (compatibility mode), and a list of plugins that declare themselves incompatible.

How to switch without surprises

1. **Take a full backup** of the files and the database. Orders are what you cannot lose: see **automatic backup or your own copy**.

2. **Try it on a test site first**, if you have one. How to set one up is in **A test site before touching what is live**.

3. **Read the incompatible list** on the Features page. A plugin that reads orders straight from the old tables stops seeing them after the switch. If a plugin you depend on is listed, wait for its update.

4. **Switch the sync on** (compatibility mode) and choose the high-performance storage. Moving the old orders happens in the background and takes longer on a shop with many orders.

5 **Place a test order** and check: status, customer e-mails, the shop e-mail and the reports. See **order statuses**.

6 **Only when everything is stable** switch the sync off. With it on, WooCommerce writes every order twice.

Do not switch in the middle of a campaign
or without a backup. If something goes wrong, the way back is returning to the old storage, but that only protects your orders if sync was on while you worked.

Your situation	What to do
A new shop, installed now	It normally starts with HPOS on. Confirm on the Features page and carry on.
An older shop with third-party plugins	Read the incompatible list, test on a test site and only then switch.
An older shop, no time right now	It can stay as it is. Switch at a quiet moment, with a backup.

If the shop is slow, HPOS is not the first place to look. Start by measuring: **a shop with thousands of products is slow**.

NEED A HAND?

Want to confirm what your hosting allows before switching? Open a ticket and tell us what the Features page shows.

Open a support ticket →

Where to see it in your account

- **PHP version.** In cPanel, open Select PHP Version (or MultiPHP Manager): it shows the version in use for your domain and the others available.
- **WooCommerce version.** In the WordPress dashboard, open Plugins and read the number next to WooCommerce.
- **Space and database.** Moving orders copies them into new tables, so the database grows for a while. Databases are unlimited on every plan, but space is not: check the Statistics sidebar before you start.

- **Safety net.** The plan makes an automatic daily backup with restores at no cost, and JetBackup in cPanel lists the restore points. Take your own copy just before you switch anyway.
- **On a big shop.** Watch Resource Usage while the migration runs. If the account touches its limits, do it at a quiet hour or talk to us.

SEE ALSO

- **Setting up your WooCommerce shop: the settings that matter**
- **WooCommerce order statuses explained**
- **A test site before touching what is live**
- **Checkout errors in WooCommerce: where to look**

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