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Installing PrestaShop

Platforms & Getting Started

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Installing PrestaShop

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PrestaShop sits between OpenCart and Magento: it arrives with catalogue, promotions, carriers and tax rules already built, without Magento's weight. For most shops starting out, it is the most balanced choice.

The installer lists three series: **8**, which is current, **1.7**, and **1.6**, which is only there for rescuing an old shop. Take series 8.

What to prepare first

Requirement	What to do
PHP extensions	PrestaShop needs two that arrive **switched off** on a new account: **intl** and **fileinfo**. Turn them on in **Select PHP Version**, on the extensions tab, *before* opening the installer. Without them the installer either blocks you, or the shop installs and then fails at formatting prices and dates.
PHP version	Series 8 runs across a wide range of PHP versions. Even so, use a supported one: see **changing your PHP version without breaking the site**.
Where to install	If the shop will share the account with another site, create the domain or subdomain first: **adding another domain or a subdomain**.
Space and files	Lighter than Magento, but still many thousands of files. See **the limits of your account**.

Installing, step by step

1. In cPanel, open **Select PHP Version** and enable **intl** and **fileinfo**.
2. Open the **Softaculous Apps Installer**, search for *PrestaShop* and pick series 8.

3. **Address:** protocol **https**, the shop domain, empty directory field to install at the root.

4. **Shop name, currency and country.** Pick the currency you will actually sell in. Changing the base currency after orders exist is painful.

5. **Administrator account:** an e-mail address you read, and a long password from the **password generator**.

6. **Look at the admin directory field.** The installer proposes a name; change it and write it down. That is how you reach the panel, and PrestaShop has no alternative entrance.

7. Under **Advanced Options**, switch on **automatic backups**, then click **Install**.

The admin directory is half the security of the shop.
Leave it with the name the installer proposes and anyone will find it. A name of your own, noted wherever you keep passwords, fixes that.

Setting the shop up to sell

1. **Currency and tax.** Confirm the base currency, the tax rule that applies to your sales, and whether the prices you type already include tax. This decision colours everything else.

2. **Carriers and shipping.** PrestaShop works out shipping by weight or by price, per zone. Worth getting right before the first order.

3. **Payment methods.** They arrive as modules, and it is the modules of the services you use that decide, not the shop. Start with bank transfer, which PrestaShop ships with, and add the rest as you sign them up. For the wider picture, see **an online shop with local payment methods**.

4. **Before accepting cards**, read **selling online, PCI and card data**. Short version: card details do not pass through your shop.

5. **Create the scheduled task** if you use modules that depend on one: **cron jobs**.

Place a real order with yourself before opening to the public.
Basket to confirmation e-mail. It is the only way to find out that the shop cannot send mail before a customer finds out for you.

Keeping it

In the Softaculous installations list, PrestaShop offers **clone**, **backup** and **change admin password**. Use the clone to try themes and modules: **a test site**.

Still choosing a shop platform? Compare with **OpenCart**, which is lighter, and with **Magento**, which is much heavier.

NEED A HAND?

Installer complaining about an extension you cannot find? Tell us and we will switch it on.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Hosting plans and what each one includes** →
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