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Product images for a fast shop

Products & Catalogue

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Product images for a fast shop

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In an online shop, photos are what sells and also what weighs most. A product page with oversized images opens slowly, and the customer who waits leaves. The rule is simple: **upload the image already at the size it will be seen**, in the right format and with a name that says what it is.

Before you upload

1. **Resize.** A photo straight from the camera or the phone has far more pixels than the screen shows. Check in the theme settings the size at which product images appear, and prepare them a little above it.

2. **Pick the format.** JPEG for photos, PNG only when you need a transparent background, WebP when the theme and browsers accept it. See **image optimisation and WebP**.

3. **Compress.** A compression tool, before uploading or through a plugin, takes weight off without it showing to the eye.

4. **Name the file.** `brown-leather-sandal.jpg` tells Google more than `IMG_4821.jpg`. Lower-case letters, no accents, with hyphens.

5. **Keep the same proportion** across products, a square for example. A shop with images of different shapes jumps about on the page and looks careless.

After you upload

What	Why
Alt text on every image	It describes the image to those who cannot see it (screen readers, slow connections) and helps search engines understand it. Write what is visible, without stuffing words.

What	Why
The main image first	It is the one in the listing and in shares, and the first to load. Give it more care than the others.
Deferred loading of the rest	WordPress already defers, by default, the images lower down the page. Check that no plugin undoes it.
Regenerate sizes if you change theme	WordPress makes several sizes of each image. If you change theme, the old sizes no longer fit: a regeneration plugin creates the new ones.

As for the product gallery, a few well-chosen photos (front, side, in use, one close-up) sell more than twenty near-identical ones. Every extra photo is one more file to load, and one more to keep on the account.

Every uploaded image becomes several.
WordPress keeps the original and creates copies in various sizes. A shop with thousands of products generates tens of thousands of files, and accounts have a file-count limit (inodes) besides the space limit. See **inodes, processes and memory** and delete the images you no longer use.

Measure at the end.
Open a product page and see whether the main image is the first thing to appear, and whether the rest of the page shifts while loading. This is one of the things Google measures: see **Core Web Vitals in plain words**. The cache plugin handles images too: **LiteSpeed Cache: the first settings**.

NEED A HAND?

Has the shop slowed down after uploading many images, or is space running out? Tell us the address and we will see what is using it.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

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- **Hosting plans** →
- **Support Policy** →

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TAX ID (NIF)	500 260 5724
COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION NO.	26464-25/250724
REGISTERED OFFICE	Rua Direita do Patriota, Bairro Dangereux Belas, Luanda, Angola
CONTACT	info@interweb.ao · +244 942 011 191 · www.interweb.ao
OPENING HOURS	Monday to Friday - 08 AM to 04 PM Saturday & Sunday - Closed

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