

WooCommerce PHP 8.1 Readiness Checklist

Check your store before WooCommerce 11.6 asks for PHP 8.1.

WooCommerce 11.6: planned February 2027 · 11.3 adds a notice on PHP 7.4 and 8.0

Key facts: 11.6 requires PHP 8.1 or newer. Stores on PHP 7.4 or 8.0 can keep updating up to WooCommerce 11.5. WooCommerce recommends PHP 8.3 or newer.

I. Know your version FIND OUT

- ☐ Read your PHP version: WooCommerce, Status, Server environment
- ☐ Cross-check: Tools, Site Health, Info, Server
- ☐ PHP 7.4 or 8.0: plan an upgrade now
- ☐ PHP 8.1 or 8.2: you meet the minimum; plan 8.3+
- ☐ Ask your host which versions they offer

3. Test on staging NOT ON THE LIVE SITE

- ☐ Switch PHP on staging
- ☐ Turn on WP_DEBUG_LOG and read the log for fatal errors
- ☐ Guest checkout and logged-in checkout, desktop and phone
- ☐ Every active payment method
- ☐ Shipping and tax for your real countries
- ☐ Customer and admin emails arrive
- ☐ Scheduled Actions: nothing failing or overdue
- ☐ Update or replace anything that fails

2. Prepare BEFORE ANYTHING CHANGES

- ☐ Take a full backup and check you can restore it
- ☐ Make a staging copy of the store
- ☐ List your theme, plugins and custom code, with versions
- ☐ Check each one's stated PHP requirement
- ☐ Pick a quiet time for the live change

4. Go live QUIET TIME

- ☐ Backup again just before the change
- ☐ Switch PHP on the live site
- ☐ Recheck WooCommerce, Status
- ☐ Repeat a guest order on a phone
- ☐ Check one order, its email and its status

5. Afterwards VERIFY

- ☐ Watch the PHP and WooCommerce logs for a few days
- ☐ Check Failed and Pending payment orders
- ☐ Note the date and the new PHP version

Want a second pair of eyes?

Commerce Health Free runs read-only checks on demand, including a PHP version check, once you are on PHP 8.1 or newer (the plugin needs it too). It does not test your checkout. Commerce Health PRO watches payments, checkout errors, plugin changes and checkout speed in the background and emails you. It does not fix problems for you.