

Shop Sync for WooCommerce

User Manual — Version 1.1

This manual guides you through installing, configuring, and using Shop Sync for WooCommerce. Whether you are setting up your first destination site or managing a multi-store catalog, every step is covered in plain language.

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1. Overview

Shop Sync for WooCommerce keeps your product catalog consistent across multiple WooCommerce stores. You manage products in one place — the **source site** — and they flow automatically to every connected **destination site**. Prices, stock levels, images, categories, brands, and product variations are all included.

The free tier allows you to sync up to 30 products to a single destination site, so you can fully test the plugin before upgrading. A Pro license removes all limits and adds automatic background synchronization and AI-powered description rewriting.

2. Requirements

Component	Minimum version
WordPress	6.0
WooCommerce	7.0
PHP	7.4

Tip: HTTPS is recommended on the destination site. The plugin communicates via the WooCommerce REST API, which is more secure over an encrypted connection.

3. Installation

Install the plugin on the **source site** (where you manage your products). Installation on destination sites is optional but recommended for the deepest integration.

1 Download the plugin

Download shop-sync-for-woocommerce.zip from shop-sync.nl or your purchase receipt.

2 Upload via WordPress admin

Go to Plugins → Add New → Upload Plugin. Select the ZIP file and click Install Now.

3 Activate

Click Activate Plugin. You will be redirected automatically to the Shop Sync setup screen.

4 Repeat on the destination site (optional)

Install and activate the plugin on every destination site that should receive products. This unlocks direct brand taxonomy linking and additional protection features.

4. Initial setup — choosing a role

After activation, the plugin asks you to set the role of this WordPress installation. This determines how it behaves.

Role	When to choose this	What it does
Source site	The site where you create and manage products.	Shows the full admin interface: Websites, Settings, Status, Log, Descriptions.
Destination site	A site that receives products from the source.	Shows a simplified page with REST API setup instructions only.

Note: You can change the role at any time from the dropdown at the top of the Shop Sync page. The page reloads automatically after saving.

5. Connecting a destination site

Before you can sync products, you need to connect at least one destination site. You will need a WooCommerce REST API key from the destination site.

Step A — Create an API key on the destination site

1 Open WooCommerce settings

Log in to the destination site's WordPress admin and go to WooCommerce → Settings → Advanced → REST API.

2 Add a new key

Click Add key. Enter a description such as "Shop Sync", set Permissions to Read/Write, and click Generate API key.

3 Copy the credentials

Copy the Consumer Key (starts with ck_) and the Consumer Secret (starts with cs_). You will only see these once, so copy them now.

Step B — Add the destination site in Shop Sync

1 Open the Websites tab

On the source site, go to Shop Sync → Websites and click + Add website.

2 Enter the site details

Fill in a name for the site, its full URL (e.g. <https://mystore.com>), and the Consumer Key and Consumer Secret you copied above.

3 Select categories

Tick every product category that should be synced to this destination site. You can choose a different set of categories per destination.

4 Test the connection

Click Test connection. A green message confirms that the credentials are valid and the plugin is reachable on the destination site. If the plugin is not installed there, the test still passes as long as the WooCommerce REST API is accessible.

5 Save

Click Save. The destination site now appears in the Websites list.

6. Running your first synchronization

Once a destination site is saved, you are ready to run your first sync.

1 Go to the Status tab

Click Shop Sync → Status in the admin menu.

2 Click Sync all sites now

This queues every product in the selected categories for synchronization to all active destination sites.

3 Watch the progress bar

The Running & completed synchronizations section updates in real time. Each job shows the number of products synced and any errors.

4 Check the destination site

Log in to the destination site and verify that the products, categories, images, and brands have arrived correctly.

Free tier: Only the first 30 products are synced. Products beyond this limit are silently skipped until you upgrade to Pro.

7. The Status tab

The Status tab is the main control panel for synchronization. Here is what each element does:

Sync all sites now

Starts a full sync for every active destination site.

Sync: [site name]

Starts a sync for that specific site only.

Clear category cache

Forces the next sync to look up all categories on the destination site again. Use this if you have manually renamed or deleted categories.

Clear brand cache

Same as above, for brand terms.

Queue Runner URL

A URL you can add as a server cron job for maximum reliability. See the description below the URL field for the exact cron command.

Batch size

The number of products processed per background task. Lower values (5–10) are safer on shared hosting. Higher values (20–50) speed up large syncs on dedicated servers.

Running & completed synchronizations

Shows live progress. A Stalled indicator with a Resume button appears if a job stops unexpectedly.

8. Syncing a single product on demand

You can push any individual product to one or all destination sites without running a full sync. This is useful for testing a specific product or pushing an urgent price change immediately.

1 Scroll to Select a product to sync

On the Status tab, find the search panel below the main sync buttons.

2 Search for the product

Type at least 2 characters of the product name, SKU, or ID. Matching products appear below the search field.

3 Choose a destination (optional)

The dropdown defaults to All active destination sites. Change it to target a specific site only.

4 Click Sync

The product is queued immediately. Progress appears in the Running & completed synchronizations panel.

9. Settings

Go to Shop Sync → Settings to configure the plugin's global options.

Sync interval (Pro only)

Choose how often products sync automatically: every 15 minutes, every 30 minutes, hourly, twice daily, or daily. In the free tier this setting is disabled and synchronization is manual only.

Sync descriptions (per site)

Each destination site has its own toggle for description syncing. When turned off, product descriptions on the destination site are never overwritten — useful if you write custom copy per storefront.

OpenAI — Rewrite descriptions (Pro only)

Enter your OpenAI API key and a rewrite prompt to have descriptions automatically rewritten before they are sent to destination sites. Rewritten descriptions are cached per product and only regenerated when the original changes. See section 11 for the full setup guide.

10. Sync log

Go to Shop Sync → Sync log to see a detailed record of every synchronization action. Each row shows:

- Date and time of the action
- Destination site
- Product name
- Action type: create (new product), update (existing product), skip (no changes detected), or error
- Status: success or error
- Message: a plain-language explanation of what happened or what went wrong

Click **Clear log** to remove all entries. This does not affect any synced products.

11. AI-powered description rewriting (Pro)

Pro feature: An active Pro license is required to use AI-powered description rewriting.

1 Get an OpenAI API key

Sign up at platform.openai.com, create a project, and generate an API key.

2 Enter the key in Shop Sync

Go to Shop Sync → Settings → OpenAI. Paste your API key and click Test API key to confirm it works.

3 Write a rewrite prompt

The prompt tells the AI what to do with each description. A good starting point: "Rewrite the following product description in English. Keep all relevant product information but use unique, sales-oriented copy. Only return the rewritten description, with no extra explanation."

4 Enable rewriting

Check Use OpenAI to rewrite product descriptions and click Save settings.

5 Run a sync

On the next sync, each product's description is rewritten before being sent to the destination site. Rewritten descriptions are cached under Shop Sync → Descriptions and reused on future syncs unless the original changes.

To view, regenerate, or delete a cached description, go to **Shop Sync → Descriptions**.

12. Activating a Pro license

1 Purchase a license

Buy a Pro license at shop-sync.nl. You will receive a license key by email.

2 Open the Account page

In WordPress, go to Shop Sync → Account.

3 Enter your license key

Paste the license key into the field and click Activate License.

4 Pro features unlocked

After a successful activation, all Pro features become active immediately: unlimited products, unlimited destination sites, automatic sync scheduling, and AI description rewriting.

Note: Your license key is tied to your domain. If you move the plugin to a different domain, deactivate the license first under Shop Sync → Account, then reactivate it on the new domain.

13. Free vs. Pro — feature comparison

Feature	Free	Pro
Synced products	Up to 30	Unlimited
Destination sites	1	Unlimited
Sync schedule	Manual only	Automatic (15 min – daily)
AI description rewriting	—	Included
Category sync	Yes	Yes
Brand sync	Yes	Yes
Image handling	Yes	Yes
Live sync dashboard	Yes	Yes
Activity log	Yes	Yes
Single-product sync	Yes	Yes
Support	Community	Priority email

14. Frequently asked questions

Do I need to install the plugin on the destination site?

No. The plugin uses the standard WooCommerce REST API, so the destination site only needs a WooCommerce API key. Installing it there too gives you direct brand taxonomy linking and additional protection, but it is optional.

Will this overwrite products I created manually on the destination site?

No. Every product the plugin creates is tagged internally. Products without that tag are treated as local and are never touched.

What happens if a sync job gets interrupted?

The queue tracks every product individually. If a job stalls, the dashboard shows a Stalled badge and a Resume button. Click it to continue exactly where the sync left off — no products are synced twice.

Can I sync only specific categories to a specific store?

Yes. Category selection is per destination site. You can send the full catalog to one store and only a specific category to another.

Why are some products not syncing?

Check the Sync log for error messages. Common causes: the product is not in a selected category, the WooCommerce API key has expired, or the free 30-product limit has been reached.

Does the free tier have a time limit?

No. The free tier is not a trial — it works indefinitely with the 30-product and single-destination-site limits. Upgrade at any time to remove those limits.

Can I upgrade later without losing data?

Yes. All connected sites, category selections, and sync history carry over when you activate a Pro license. No reinstall is needed.

15. Support

If you run into an issue that is not covered in this manual, the following resources are available:

Resource	Details
Website	https://shop-sync.nl
Free support	Community forum via WordPress.org plugin page.
Pro support	Priority email support included with every Pro license. Response within 1 business day.

Thank you for using Shop Sync for WooCommerce. We hope it saves you hours every week.