

Backorder Manager

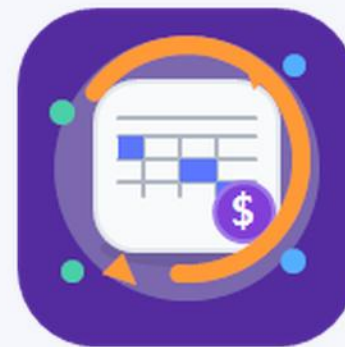
Global & Category Rules

A practical guide to setting storewide backorder policies, limiting rules to selected categories, and keeping product-level exceptions in place.

Runtime only

Category scoped

Per-product opt-out



Backorder control at a glance

Global rules - category scope - product exceptions



Global rules

Choose Allow, Allow but notify, or Disable for the whole catalog.



Category scope

Limit rules to specific product categories with parent/child selection.



Product opt-out

Let individual products ignore the global rule when needed.

What this plugin is for

- Control backorder behavior without rewriting product data.
- Keep the WooCommerce admin workflow familiar.
- Use the same rules across shop, category, and tag archives.

At a glance

- Built for WooCommerce settings and storefront behavior
- Runtime-only changes, not database inventory rewrites
- Per-product opt-out for special cases
- Role-based access to settings
- Works with stock visibility and product collection behavior

1. Installation and first-time setup

Keep the setup simple: choose a mode, choose a scope, then decide who can change it.

Before you begin

- WooCommerce must be active.
- Use the plugin settings screen at WooCommerce > Settings > Backorder Manager.
- Only users with access to WooCommerce settings can change the plugin.
- The plugin works at runtime, so product data stays editable and intact.

Installation

- Upload the plugin folder to wp-content/plugins or install it through the Plugins screen.
- Activate the plugin.
- Open WooCommerce > Settings > Backorder Manager.

First-time setup

- Choose a backorder mode: Allow, Allow but notify, or Disable.
- Select Entire catalog or Selected categories.
- If using categories, check parent categories and refine with child exclusions.
- Set Filter priority only if another plugin is also changing inventory behavior.
- Choose which roles may access the settings screen.

Settings path

WooCommerce

[Settings > Backorder Manager](#)

Everything is managed in the native WooCommerce settings area.

Recommended order

- 1 Pick the mode.
- 2 Pick the scope.
- 3 Add category filters if needed.
- 4 Decide who can access the settings.
- 5 Save changes and review a product page.

Good to know

- Administrators always have access.
- The product edit screen includes a per-product opt-out checkbox.
- The plugin can keep in-scope products visible when WooCommerce hides out-of-stock items.

Tip

If you only need a storewide rule, leave scope set to Entire catalog. If you need exceptions, use category scope and per-product opt-out together.

2. Using Backorder Manager

This section explains how the main rules work and what each setting changes on the storefront.

How the rules flow

WooCommerce settings

Scope

Storefront output

Backorder modes

Allow, Allow but notify, or Disable.

- Allow: products can continue to be ordered when stock runs low.
- Allow but notify: customers see the backorder notice.
- Disable: backorders are blocked for products in scope.

Category scope

Target the whole catalog or a selected set of product categories.

- Checking a parent category includes all child categories by default.
- You can exclude specific children if you need to narrow the rule.
- If you want no category filtering, keep scope set to Entire catalog.

Product opt-out

Use the product edit screen to ignore the global rule for one item.

- This is useful for products that should keep their native stock behavior.
- The metabox shows whether the product is in scope and why overrides are blocked.

Catalog visibility

Keep eligible products visible when WooCommerce hides out-of-stock items.

- This helps if you use WooCommerce's hide-out-of-stock setting.
- It applies on shop, category, and tag archives for products in scope.

Filter priority

Use a higher number if another plugin is overriding inventory behavior.

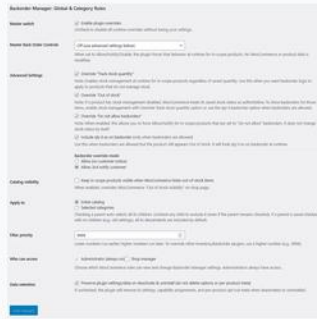
- Larger values run later.
- A higher priority can help this plugin win conflicts with other stock tools.

3. Screens, troubleshooting, and FAQs

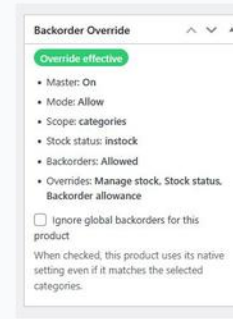
A few screenshots help users confirm they are on the right screen and understand what each setting affects.

Key screens

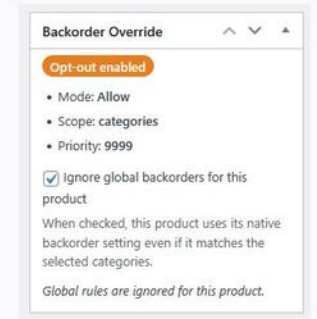
Use screenshots here to show settings, product opt-out, and override status.



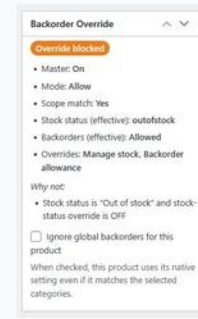
Settings page



Override effective



Product opt-out



Override blocked

Troubleshooting

Backorders are not changing

Check the scope first, then confirm whether Master Back Order Controls is enabled.

Products are hidden

If WooCommerce hides out-of-stock items, enable the catalog visibility override for in-scope products.

Another plugin wins

Increase Filter priority so this plugin runs later.

A product still behaves differently

Use the product opt-out checkbox to confirm whether it is ignoring the global rule.

FAQs

Does this change product data in the database?

No. It works at runtime only.

Can I apply the rules to only some categories?

Yes. Select categories instead of the entire catalog.

Can one product ignore the global rule?

Yes. Use the per-product opt-out checkbox.

Does it support Woo Blocks?

Yes. The plugin includes compatibility for Product Collection behavior.

4. Compatibility, support, and updates

Keep this section short, clear, and easy to scan so merchants know where to go next.

Compatibility notes

- Built for WooCommerce settings and storefront behavior.
- Works with the product edit screen and WooCommerce customer-facing requests.
- Supports product collection / Woo Blocks behavior.
- Designed to play nicely with other inventory plugins by using Filter priority.

Support

If you need help, contact the support channel provided with your purchase. When you write in, include the plugin version, your WooCommerce version, what you expected to happen, and any relevant screenshots.

Feedback

- Use user feedback to improve the documentation.
- Keep screenshots and steps updated when the settings screen changes.
- Add a brief note whenever a new version changes the behavior merchants see.

Version history

Current version: 1.0.9

Last updated: 2026-03-28

1.0.9

Master Back Order Controls act as a true master policy override.

1.0.8

Settings moved into WooCommerce > Settings as a native tab.

1.0.7

UI and compatibility polish, including Blocks behavior.

1.0.5

Initial release with global and category rules.

Documentation standard

Write documentation for a non-technical audience. Focus on installation, setup, usage, troubleshooting, and support. Keep the language simple and update the guide whenever the plugin changes.