

Streamline Category Hider

Version 1.0.2 | WordPress Plugin Documentation

Plugin Name: Streamline Category Hider

Version: 1.0.2

Author: Streamline Diving

Plugin URI: <https://streamlinediving.com/plugins>

Author URI: <https://www.streamlinediving.com>

License: GPL v2 or later

Requires WordPress: 5.0 or higher

Requires PHP: 7.2 or higher

WooCommerce: 3.0 or higher (tested up to 8.5)

Description

Streamline Category Hider is a powerful yet simple WordPress plugin that allows you to control which WooCommerce product categories are visible on your online store. Perfect for managing seasonal products, hiding empty categories, or controlling your shop's navigation structure.

What Does This Plugin Do?

This plugin allows you to hide specific product categories from appearing on your shop pages, category widgets, and navigation menus, while keeping the products accessible through direct links and search functionality.

Key Features

- ✓ Easy-to-use Interface - Simple checkbox system for selecting categories to hide
- ✓ Parent & Child Support - Hide parent categories, subcategories, or both independently
- ✓ Instant Preview - See which categories are currently hidden at a glance
- ✓ One-Click Actions - Save changes or reset all settings with a single click
- ✓ No Coding Required - User-friendly admin interface
- ✓ Lightweight - Optimized for performance with minimal impact on your site
- ✓ WooCommerce Compatible - Works with WooCommerce blocks, widgets, and standard shop pages
- ✓ Enhanced Data Validation - Ensures settings are saved correctly every time
- ✓ Translation Ready - Proper text domain for easy translation

Where Categories Are Hidden

When you hide a category, it will be removed from:

- Shop page category listings
- Product category widgets (standard and dropdown)
- Category navigation menus
- Product queries and archives
- Category breadcrumbs

Important Notes:

- Products in hidden categories remain accessible via direct URLs
- Products can still appear in search results (unless you change their visibility)
- Hidden categories are only hidden on the frontend; they remain fully accessible in the admin area
- Products in hidden categories can be managed normally from the WordPress dashboard

System Requirements

Component	Minimum Version	Recommended
WordPress	5.0 or higher	Latest version
PHP	7.2 or higher	8.0 or higher
WooCommerce	3.0 or higher	Latest version
MySQL	5.6 or higher	5.7 or higher

Installation

Automatic Installation

1. Log in to your WordPress dashboard
2. Navigate to Plugins → Add New
3. Search for "Streamline Category Hider"
4. Click "Install Now" and then "Activate"

Manual Installation

1. Download the plugin ZIP file
2. Log in to your WordPress dashboard
3. Navigate to Plugins → Add New → Upload Plugin
4. Choose the ZIP file and click "Install Now"
5. Click "Activate Plugin"

After Activation

1. Navigate to "Category Hider" in your WordPress admin menu
2. Check the boxes next to categories you want to hide
3. Click "Save Hidden Categories"
4. Your changes will take effect immediately

How to Use

Hiding Categories

1. **Access Settings:** Go to Category Hider in your WordPress admin menu
2. **Select Categories:** Check the boxes next to categories you want to hide
3. **Save Changes:** Click the "Save Hidden Categories" button
4. **Verify:** Check the yellow info box to confirm hidden categories

Unhiding Categories

Option 1 - Specific Categories: Uncheck the boxes next to categories you want to make visible, then click "Save Hidden Categories"

Option 2 - All Categories: Click the "Reset All" button to unhide all categories at once

Use Cases

- **Seasonal Products:** Hide seasonal categories during off-season
- **Empty Categories:** Remove empty categories from navigation
- **Shop Organization:** Clean up your shop's category structure
- **Work in Progress:** Hide categories you're still setting up
- **A/B Testing:** Manage category visibility for testing
- **User Experience:** Create a cleaner shopping experience

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will hiding a category delete the products in it?

A: No! Hiding a category only removes it from navigation and listings. All products remain intact and can still be accessed directly through their URLs.

Q: Can customers still search for products in hidden categories?

A: Yes, by default products in hidden categories will still appear in search results. If you want to hide them from search as well, you need to change each product's visibility setting to "Hidden" in the product editor.

Q: What happens if I hide a parent category?

A: The parent category will be hidden from navigation, but child categories will remain visible unless you also check their boxes. You have full control over each category independently.

Q: Does this plugin affect product URLs or SEO?

A: No, product URLs remain unchanged. Direct links to products will continue to work normally. This only affects category visibility in navigation and listings.

Q: Will this slow down my website?

A: No, the plugin is very lightweight and uses WordPress's built-in caching mechanisms. It only filters categories when they're being displayed, with minimal performance impact.

Q: How do I unhide all categories at once?

A: Click the "Reset All" button on the plugin settings page. You'll be asked to confirm this action before all categories are unhidden.

Changelog

Version 1.0.2 (2024) - Current Version

- Added proper array validation in AJAX handlers
- Improved data sanitization for category IDs
- Added category existence validation before saving
- Enhanced error logging and debugging capabilities
- Improved cache clearing mechanism
- Added uninstall hook for clean plugin removal
- Better handling of duplicate category IDs
- Added translation-ready text with proper text domain
- Improved widget exclude parameter handling
- Better error messages for failed operations
- Fixed potential issues with option saving
- Added version parameter to admin styles for cache busting
- Enhanced `get_hidden_categories()` method with validation
- Improved exception handling in save/reset operations

Version 1.0.1 (2024)

- Updated plugin name to "Streamline Category Hider"
- Updated plugin URI and author information
- Improved admin menu structure
- Removed plugin row meta links
- Changed menu icon to dashicons-hidden

Version 1.0.0 (2024)

- Initial release
- Core functionality for hiding WooCommerce categories
- Support for parent and child categories
- AJAX-powered save and reset functionality
- WooCommerce compatibility declarations
- User-friendly admin interface

Support & Resources

Getting Help

Documentation: Complete user guide included with the plugin

Plugin Website: <https://streamlinediving.com/plugins>

Support: <https://www.streamlinediving.com>

Before Contacting Support

Please gather the following information:

- WordPress version
- WooCommerce version
- PHP version
- Active theme name and version
- List of active plugins
- Clear description of the problem
- Screenshots if applicable

Privacy Policy

Streamline Category Hider does not collect, store, or transmit any user data. All settings are stored locally in your WordPress database. The plugin does not make any external API calls or send data to third-party services.

License

License: GPL v2 or later

License URI: <https://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-2.0.html>

This plugin is free software: you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation, either version 2 of the License, or (at your option) any later version.

This plugin is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the GNU General Public License for more details.

Streamline Category Hider | Version 1.0.2

Developed by Streamline Diving

<https://www.streamlinediving.com> | <https://streamlinediving.com/plugins>

© 2024 Streamline Diving. All rights reserved.

This document was generated: November 2024