SL Inventory & Stock Location Management

Track exactly where every product lives in your store

Version 1.1.1 | WordPress Plugin User Manual

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1. Overview

SL Inventory and Stock Location Management tracks the physical location of every product in your store — which section, which shelf or bin — using a two-part location system that stays consistent no matter how your store is laid out.

- **Two-part locations** — a managed **Main Section** dropdown (Carousel, Shelf, Rack, Bin…) plus a free-text **Sub Location** (4, B3, Row 2…)
- **Editable section names** — build and maintain your own Main Section list at any time
- **Bulk import/export** — CSV with separate Main Section and Sub Location columns
- **Smart SKU matching** — fuzzy matching handles case, spaces, dashes, and leading zeros
- **Selective updates** — preview matched products and choose exactly which to update
- **Comprehensive reports** — changed, skipped, and not-imported reports after every CSV run

On the frontend, a product's location displays as **Main Section – Sub Location**, e.g. "*Location in Store: Carousel - 4*". If Sub Location is left blank, the dash is hidden automatically and it simply reads "*Location in Store: Shelf*".

2. Installation

1. Go to **Plugins → Add New → Upload Plugin**, select the zip file, and click **Install Now**.
2. Click **Activate Plugin**.
3. Open **Stock Locations & Inventory Management** in the admin menu.
4. Go to **Display Settings** and review the pre-loaded Main Section Names list, customizing it for your store's layout.

Requirement	Minimum
WordPress	5.8 or higher
WooCommerce	5.0 or higher
PHP	7.4 or higher

> **Note:** WooCommerce must be installed and active before this plugin will work.

3. Quick Start

Method 1 — Add Locations Manually

1. Go to **Products → All Products** and click a product to edit it.
2. Find the **Store Location** box in the right sidebar.
3. Choose a **Main Section** from the dropdown (e.g. Carousel).
4. Enter a **Sub Location** if needed (e.g. 4).
5. Check the live preview — it shows exactly how the location will read on the frontend.
6. Click **Update**.

Method 2 — Import via CSV

1. Go to **Stock Locations & Inventory Management**.
2. Click **Download CSV Template**.
3. Fill in: Product SKU, Product Qty, Main Section, Sub Location, Hide on Website.
4. Save as CSV and upload it.
5. Review the preview, select the products to apply, and click **Confirm and Start Import**.
6. Download the reports after completion.

> **Pro tip:** start with a small test import of 5–10 products before running your full inventory through it.

4. Plugin Settings

Access via **Stock Locations & Inventory Management → Display Settings**.

Location Label

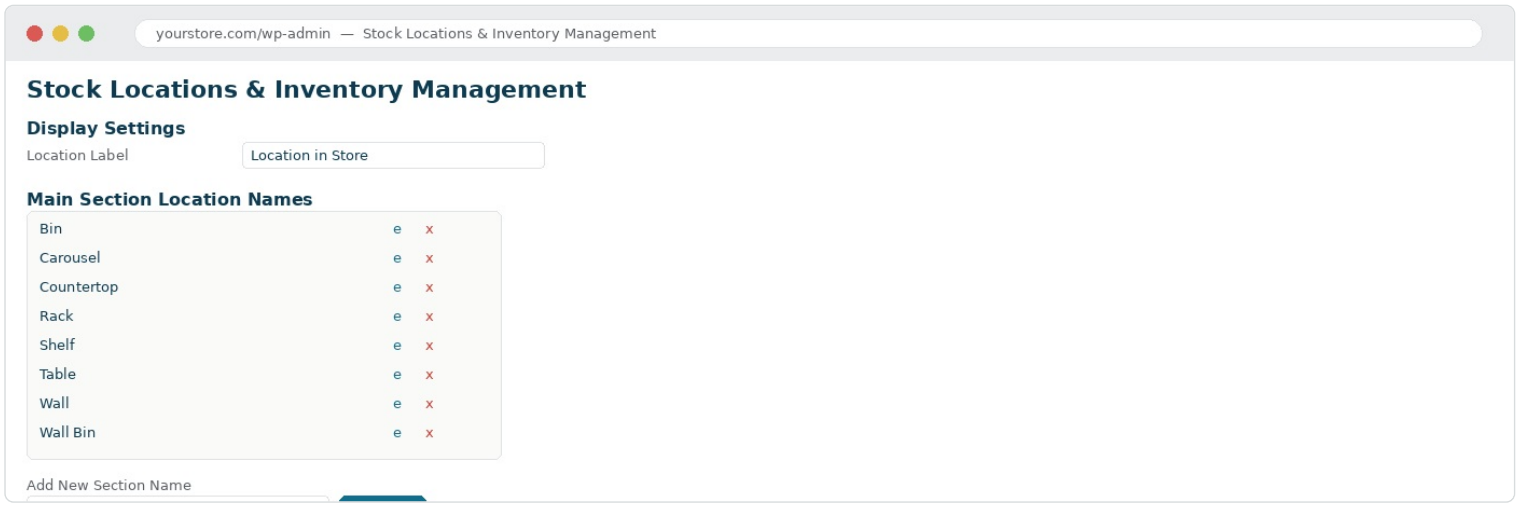
The text shown before the location on product pages. Default is "*Location in Store*" — customize it to something like "*Find in Store:*" or "*Warehouse Location:*".

Import Options

> **Important:** configure these options **before** selecting your CSV file — changing them after a file is already selected has no effect.

- **Skip Location Updates** — updates quantities and visibility without touching Main Section or Sub Location
- **Skip Quantity Updates** — updates locations and visibility without touching stock quantities
- **Skip Location Visibility Updates** — updates locations and quantities without touching hide/show settings

5. Managing Section Names



Display Settings → Main Section Location Names — the managed list behind the product dropdown.

The **Main Section Location Names** panel builds the dropdown that appears on every product edit page. On first activation it's pre-populated with: **Bin, Carousel, Countertop, Rack, Shelf, Table, Wall, Wall Bin.**

Adding a Name

Type it into the input field at the bottom of the list and press Enter or click **Add** — it saves instantly with no page reload, and the list re-sorts alphabetically. Duplicate names are rejected automatically.

Editing a Name

Click the ✏ button, edit the text inline, then click ✔ **Save** (or press Enter). Click ✖ to discard changes.

Deleting a Name

Click the 🗑 button and confirm. Deleting a name does **not** remove it from products already using it — they keep displaying correctly. It simply won't be offered for new assignments going forward.

6. Adding Locations to a Product

Every WooCommerce product has a **Store Location** metabox in the edit screen sidebar: choose a Main Section, optionally add a Sub Location, check the live preview, and click Update.

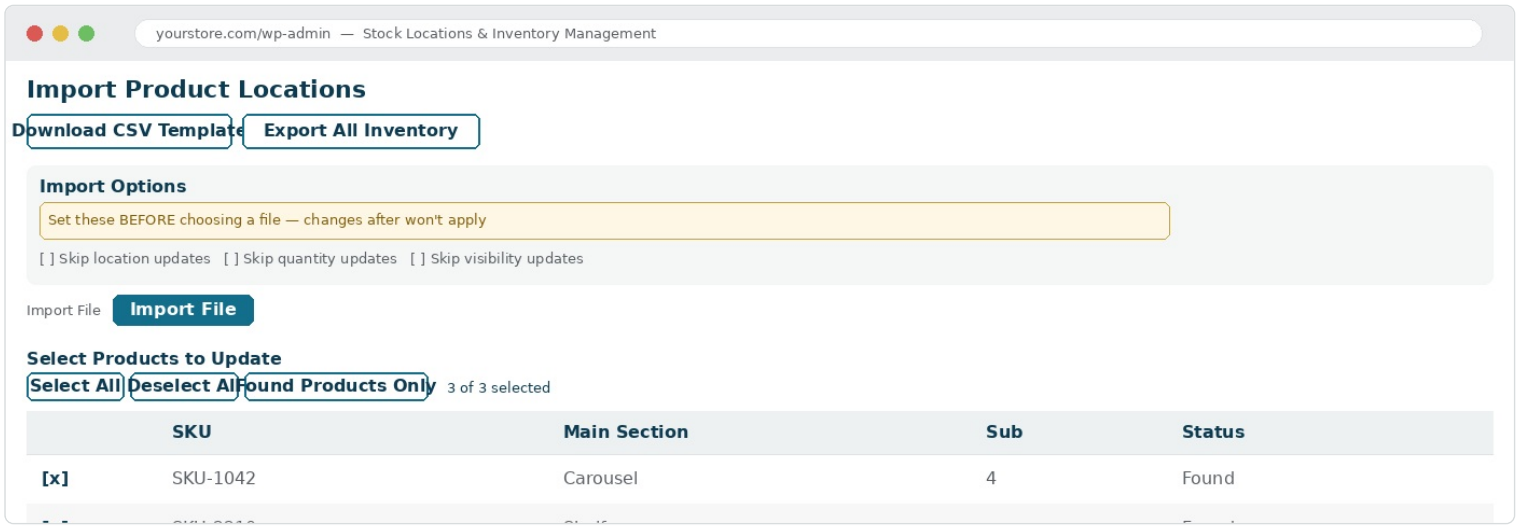
Main Section	Sub Location	Frontend Display
Carousel	4	Location in Store: Carousel - 4
Shelf	B3	Location in Store: Shelf - B3
Rack	Row 2	Location in Store: Rack - Row 2
Wall Bin	*(blank)*	Location in Store: Wall Bin
Countertop	Front	Location in Store: Countertop - Front

> **Best practice:** keep Sub Location formats consistent across the store — always numeric, or always letter+number — so reports stay easy to scan.

Hiding a Location

Check **Hide location on website** to track a location internally without showing it to customers — useful for internal warehouse codes, temporary or back-room storage, products in transit, or security-sensitive locations.

7. CSV Import Process



CSV Import — upload, preview, and per-row validation results.

Step 1: Set Import Options

> **Important:** configure these options **before** selecting your CSV file — changing them after a file is already selected has no effect.

- **Skip Location Updates** — updates quantities and visibility without touching Main Section or Sub Location
- **Skip Quantity Updates** — updates locations and visibility without touching stock quantities
- **Skip Location Visibility Updates** — updates locations and quantities without touching hide/show settings

Step 2: Choose Your File and Upload

Click **Download CSV Template** first if you need a starting file with the correct headers. Then choose your file and click **Import File** — a progress bar shows while it's being read and matched against your catalog.

Step 3: Review and Select Products to Update

Once matching finishes, every row from your CSV is listed for review before anything is actually changed — found and not-found rows are shown together so you can see the full picture at a glance.

- **Select All** / **Deselect All** / **Select Found Products Only** — quick ways to set your selection, with a running count shown next to these buttons
- Uncheck any individual row you don't want applied, even if it matched successfully

Click **Confirm and Start Import** to apply only the checked rows, or **Cancel** to discard the whole import without changing anything.

Step 4: Results

After the import runs, a results summary shows what was actually updated. If any SKUs from your file weren't found, use the diagnostic tool (Section 9) to figure out why.

CSV Column Structure

Column	Required	Description	Example
Product SKU	Yes	Unique product SKU	ABC-123
Product Qty	No	Stock quantity	100
Main Section	No	Section name (from your managed list)	Carousel
Sub Location	No	Specific position within the section	4
Hide on Website	No	yes / no / 1 / 0 / true / false / hide	no

> **Backward compatibility:** files using the old single "Product Location" column are still accepted — the value is saved to Sub Location, and Main Section is left empty.

Data Entry Tips

- SKUs are **case-insensitive** — "ABC123" matches "abc123"
- Leave a field blank to skip updating it

- Main Section is saved as-is — it doesn't need to match the managed list exactly
- Sub Location can be blank — the dash simply won't display on the frontend

8. Exporting Inventory

Export your full in-stock inventory at any time, with separate Main Section and Sub Location columns. This is especially useful as a round-trip workflow: export, edit the Main Section and Sub Location columns in Excel, save as CSV, then import back in with **Skip Quantity Updates** checked so only locations change.

Export Not Imported

After running an import, a separate export becomes available for every in-stock product that **wasn't** covered by your import file at all — useful for catching products you forgot to include (for example, new items added to your catalog since your last inventory count).

9. SKU Diagnostic Tool

The **SKU Diagnostic Tool** helps troubleshoot import issues by testing whether a specific SKU can actually be found in your database — useful when a CSV import reports a SKU as "not found" but you're sure the product exists. Enter the SKU exactly as it appears in your CSV to see how the plugin's fuzzy matching interprets it.

10. Troubleshooting & Quick Reference

Issue	What to check
Import reports a SKU as "not found"	Run it through the SKU Diagnostic Tool; also export your inventory and compare SKU formatting side-by-side.
Location didn't update after import	Check whether "Skip Location Updates" was accidentally left checked before the file was selected.
Deleted section name still shows on some products	Expected behavior — deleting a name only removes it from the dropdown for new assignments, not from products already using it.
Old CSV file rejected	It isn't — single-column "Product Location" files are still supported and map to Sub Location automatically.

Set a product's location manually	Edit product → Store Location box → choose Main Section + Sub Location → Update
Bulk update locations	Stock Locations → Download CSV Template → fill in → upload → Confirm and Start Import
Add a new section name	Display Settings → Main Section Location Names → type name → Add
Hide a location from customers	Product edit screen → check "Hide location on website"
Troubleshoot a missing SKU	Stock Locations → SKU Diagnostic Tool

SL Inventory and Stock Location Management is free, open-source, and part of the Streamline plugin suite from Streamline Diving. Licensed GPL v2 or later.

11. Version History

What's changed in each release of SL Inventory and Stock Location Management, in plain language — for reference and troubleshooting.

Version	Date	What Changed
1.1.1	—	Version bump with no changelog entry recorded — behavior matches 1.1.0 as documented throughout this manual.
1.1.0	—	Major update: locations split into a Main Section dropdown plus a free-text Sub Location (Section 5, Section 6), with an editable Section Names manager (Section 5). CSV template, export, and download reports updated to match (Section 7e, Section 8). Older single-column "Product Location" CSV files are still accepted on import.
1.0.9	—	Security hardening (nonce verification, capability checks, file validation, sanitization) and bug fixes to CSV parsing, memory handling, and SKU matching.
1.0.8	—	Updated plugin name, URIs, and documentation.
1.0.7	—	Added the product selection interface, skip-field import options, and the "Products Not in Import" export (Section 7c, Section 8).
1.0.6	—	Added the SKU Diagnostic Tool (Section 9) and improved fuzzy SKU matching.
1.0.5	—	Added batch processing, import session expiration, and UTF-8 BOM export.
1.0.4	—	Full inventory export now includes categories and image URLs (Section 8).
1.0.3	—	Added the location visibility toggle (Section 6a) and enhanced frontend styling.
1.0.2	—	Added fuzzy SKU matching and case-insensitive lookups.
1.0.1	—	Added CSV import/export and the downloadable CSV template (Section 3b, Section 7).
1.0.0	—	Initial release.

About the dates: these releases predate this Version History section, so exact ship dates aren't recorded — entries are backfilled from the plugin's own changelog. Every future update gets a dated row here going forward.