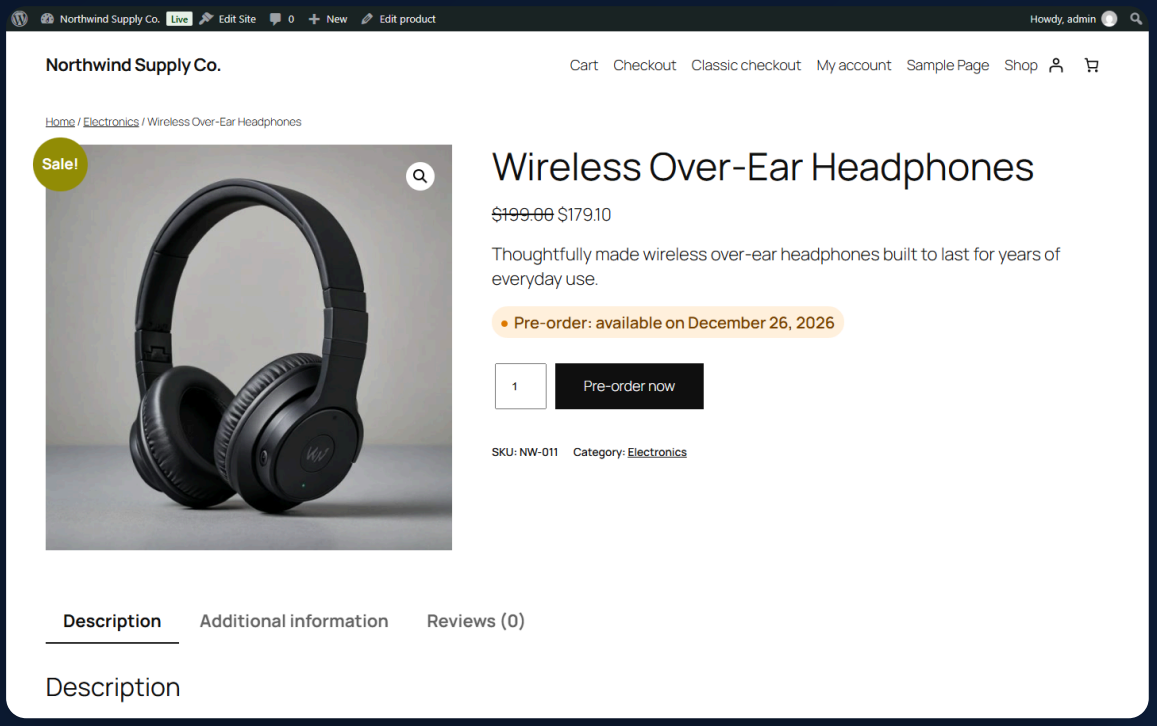
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WOOCOMMERCE PLUGIN · USER GUIDE

Releasewright — Pre-Orders for WooCommerce

Version 1.0.0 · Installation, licence activation, every setting explained, FAQ and troubleshooting.



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Releasewright — Pre-Orders for WooCommerce: user guide

Releasewright lets shoppers order products before they are released or back in stock. A product on pre-order shows its release date and a **Pre-order now** button; the order waits with the status **Pre-ordered** until the product is released, and then moves on to **Processing** (or, for pay-on-release orders, **Pending payment** with a link to pay).

Requirements: WordPress 6.4+, PHP 7.4+, WooCommerce 8.0+. Works with the block cart/checkout and the classic shortcode checkout, block themes and classic themes, and HPOS (custom order tables).

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1. Installation

1. Install and activate WooCommerce.
2. Go to **Plugins** → **Add New** → **Upload Plugin**, upload the Releasewright zip and activate it. (The free and Pro editions use the same folder, so Pro replaces the free version in place and keeps every setting.)
3. A **Pre-orders** menu appears in the admin menu with three screens: **Pre-orders**, **Report** and **Settings**, plus **Licence** (Pro) or **Upgrade to Pro** (free).

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2. Activating your Pro licence

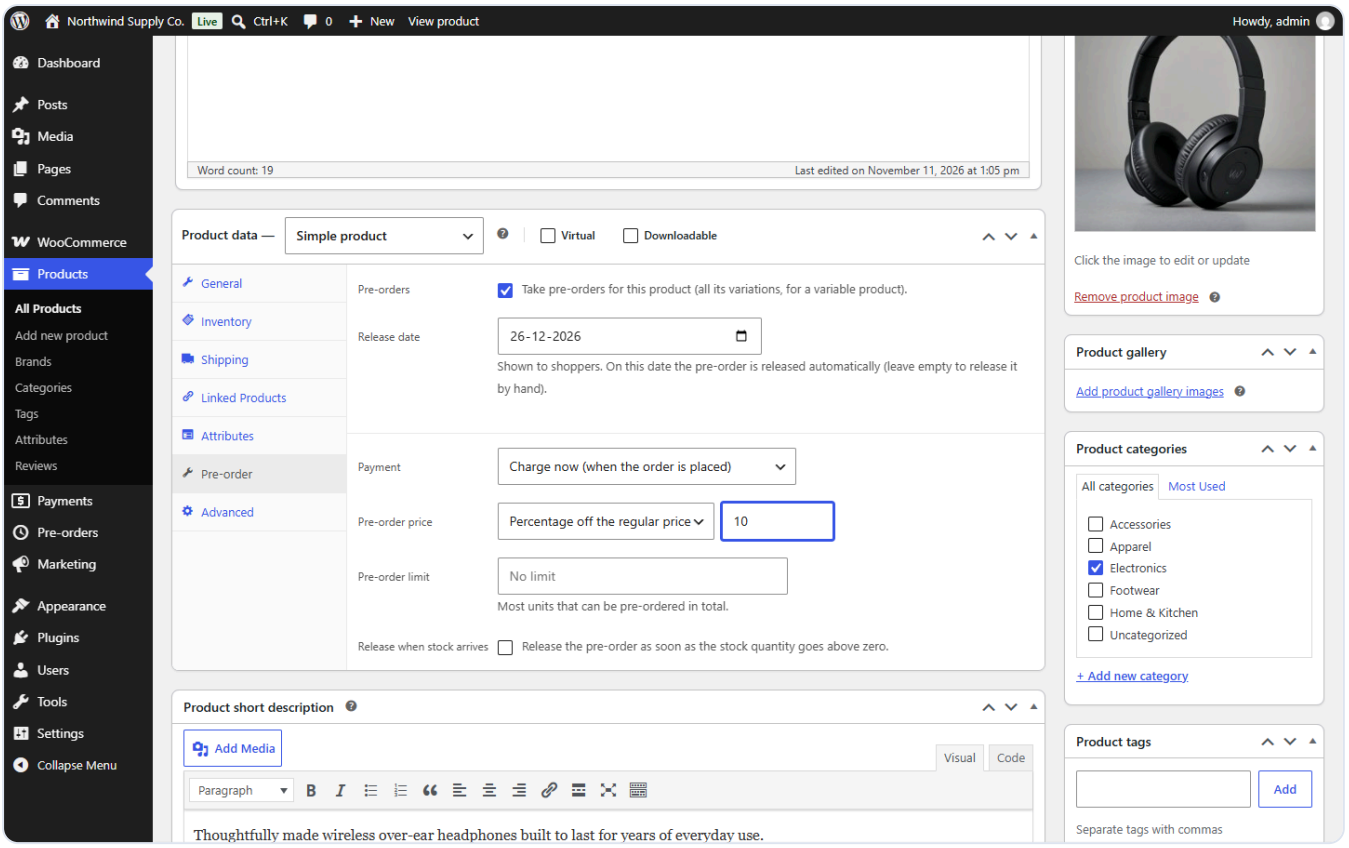
1. Open **Pre-orders** → **Licence**.
2. Paste the key from your coodecraft.com account and click **Activate**.
3. Each licence works on one live domain. Monthly and yearly keys switch Pro off when they end and back on when you renew; the Licence screen shows a renewal notice and an "I have paid — check again" button. Lifetime keys never end.

When Pro switches off, nothing breaks: products keep their settings, pre-order prices return to the normal price, pay-on-release products are charged at checkout like any other pre-order, and waiting orders are still released by the free features.

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3. Putting a product on pre-order

Edit the product and open the **Pre-order** tab (screenshot).

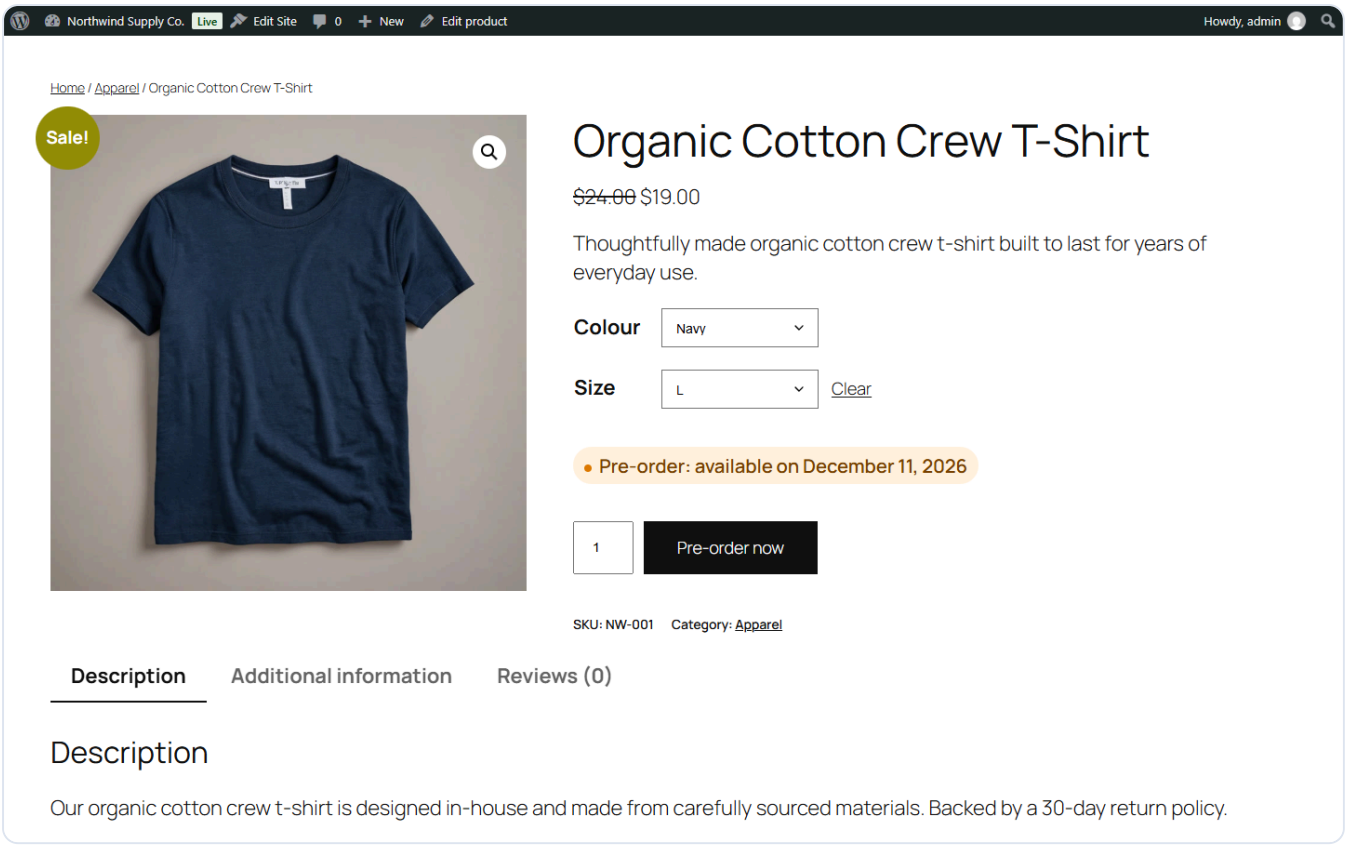


Setting	What it does
Pre-orders	Turns pre-orders on for this product. For a variable product it applies to every variation.
Release date	Shown to shoppers ("Pre-order: available on January 15, 2027"). On this date the pre-order is released automatically (see section 6). Leave it empty to release by hand.
Payment (Pro)	*Charge now*: the customer pays at checkout. *Pay on release*: nothing is charged at checkout; on release the customer is emailed a link to pay.
Pre-order price (Pro)	*Normal price*, *Percentage off the regular price* (e.g. 10) or *Fixed pre-order price* (e.g. 69). Shoppers see the regular price struck through. The normal price comes back on release.
Pre-order limit (Pro)	The most units that can be pre-ordered in total. Shoppers see "(3 left to pre-order)", then "Pre-orders are full".
Release when stock arrives (Pro)	Releases the pre-order as soon as the product's stock quantity goes above zero (needs "Manage stock").

Click **Update**. The tab also shows how many units are pre-ordered and waiting.

Per-variation pre-orders (Pro)

Open **Variations**, expand a variation and tick **Pre-order this variation**. The variation gets its own release date, payment, price, limit and stock release. Other variations sell as normal; on the product page the button changes to "Pre-order now" only when a shopper picks a variation on pre-order (screenshot).



4. What shoppers see

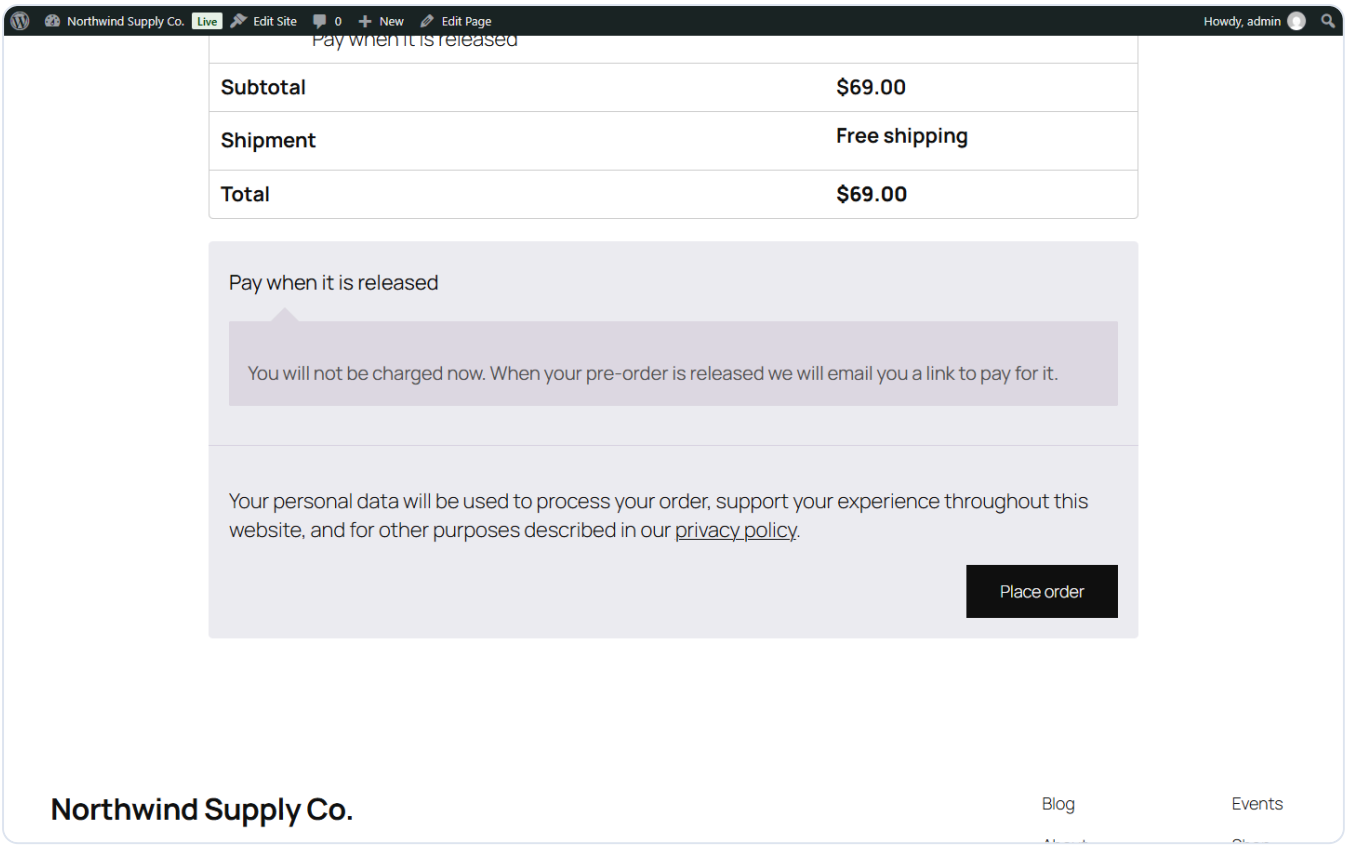
- Product page: the label "Pre-order: available on ..." instead of the stock text and a **Pre-order now** button (screenshot `pro-06-front-product.png`).
- Shop and category pages: **Pre-order now** on simple products.
- Cart, checkout, order emails and My Account: "Pre-order: Available on ..." under the product.
- Products on pre-order can be bought whatever their stock.

Cart rule

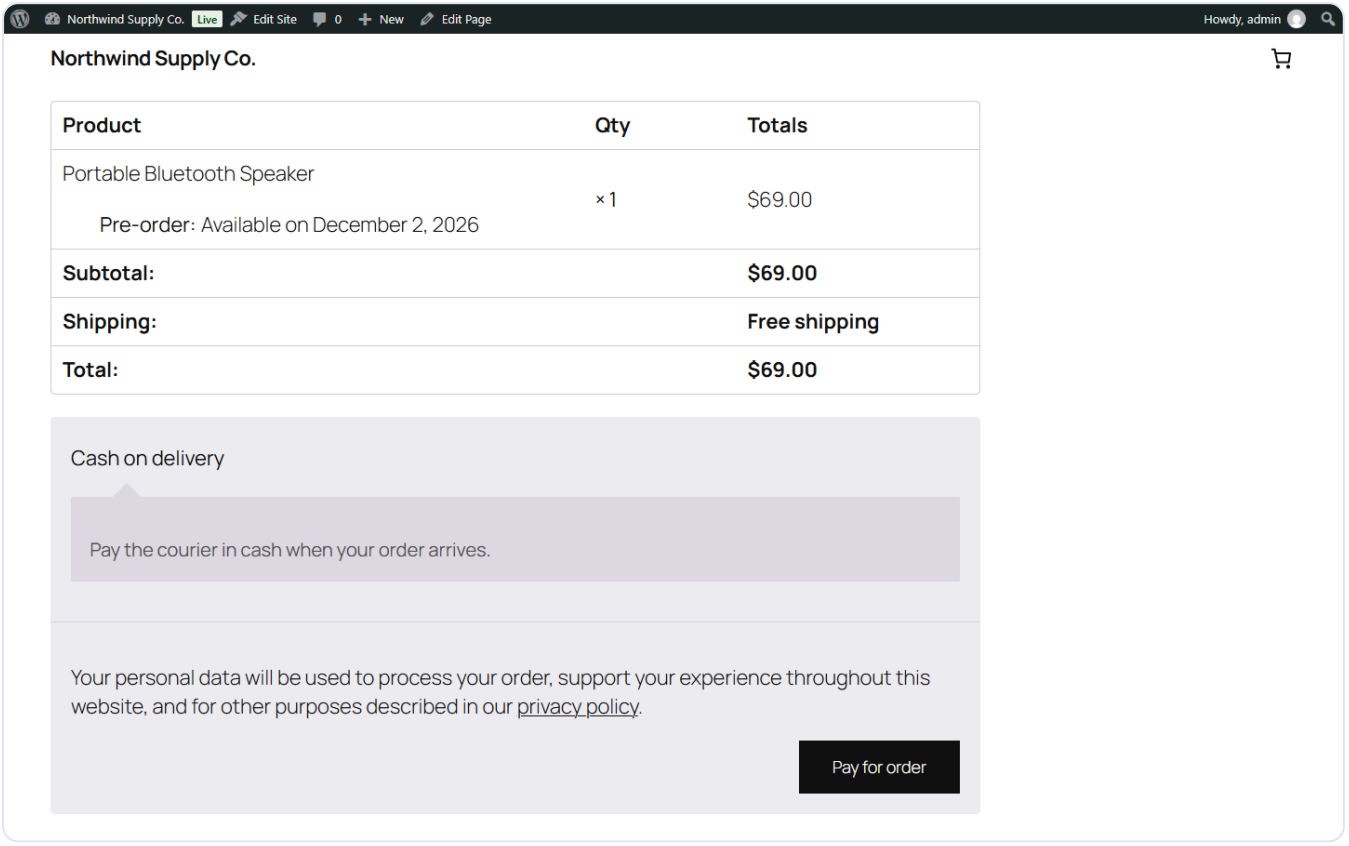
By default pre-orders are ordered on their own: a shopper with a normal product in the cart is asked to check that out first. In **Settings** you can allow pre-orders and in-stock products in one order (the whole order then waits for the release). Products paid on release are always ordered on their own.

Pay on release (Pro)

When the cart holds a pay-on-release product, the checkout offers only **Pay when it is released** (screenshot). The order is saved as Pre-ordered without payment. Customers with an account can cancel an unpaid pre-order from **My Account → Orders**.



Releasewright never stores card details and never charges a card automatically. On release the order becomes **Pending payment** and the customer receives an email with a **Pay for your order** link that opens the normal WooCommerce payment page with your usual payment methods (screenshot). WooCommerce's "cancel unpaid orders after X minutes" rule does not cancel these orders.

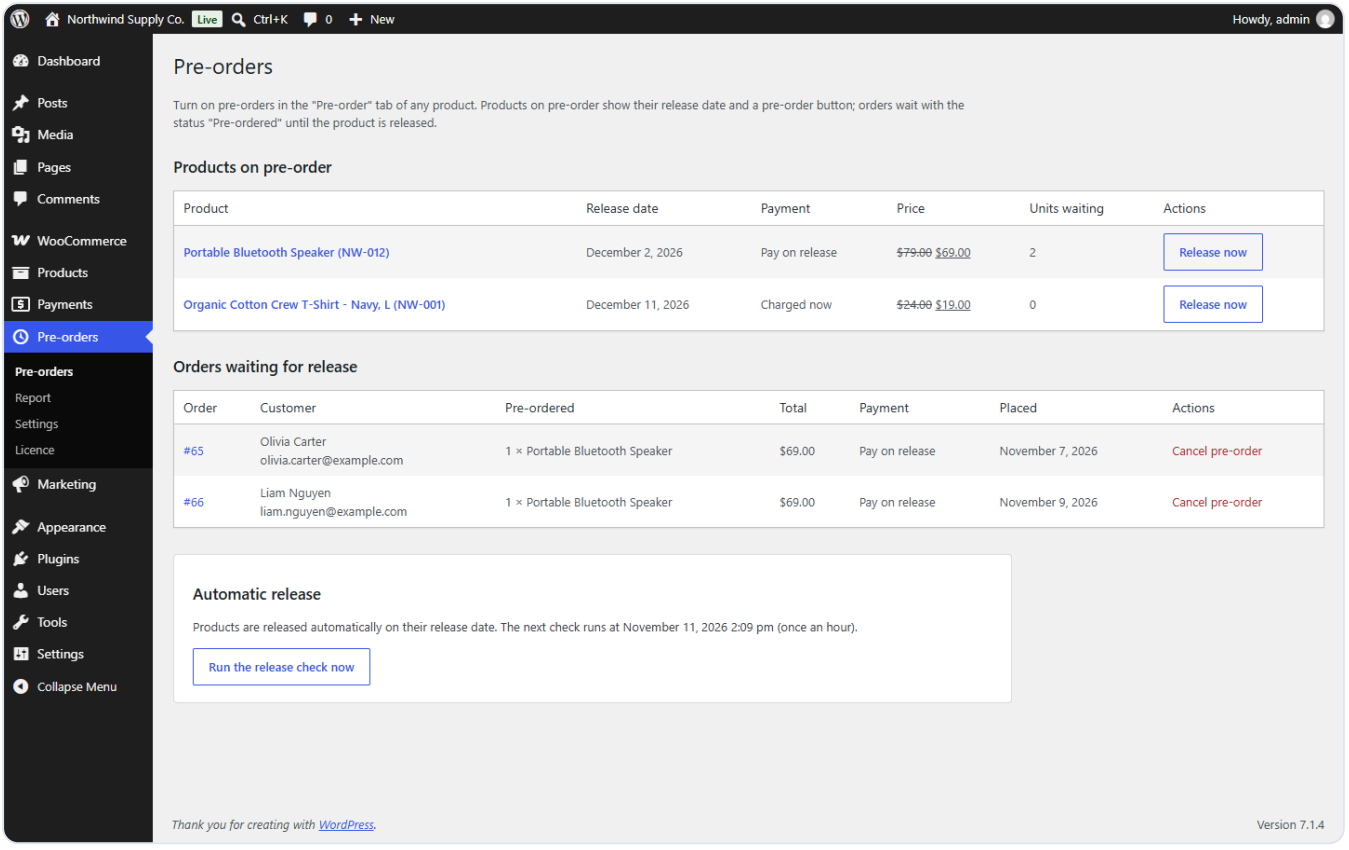


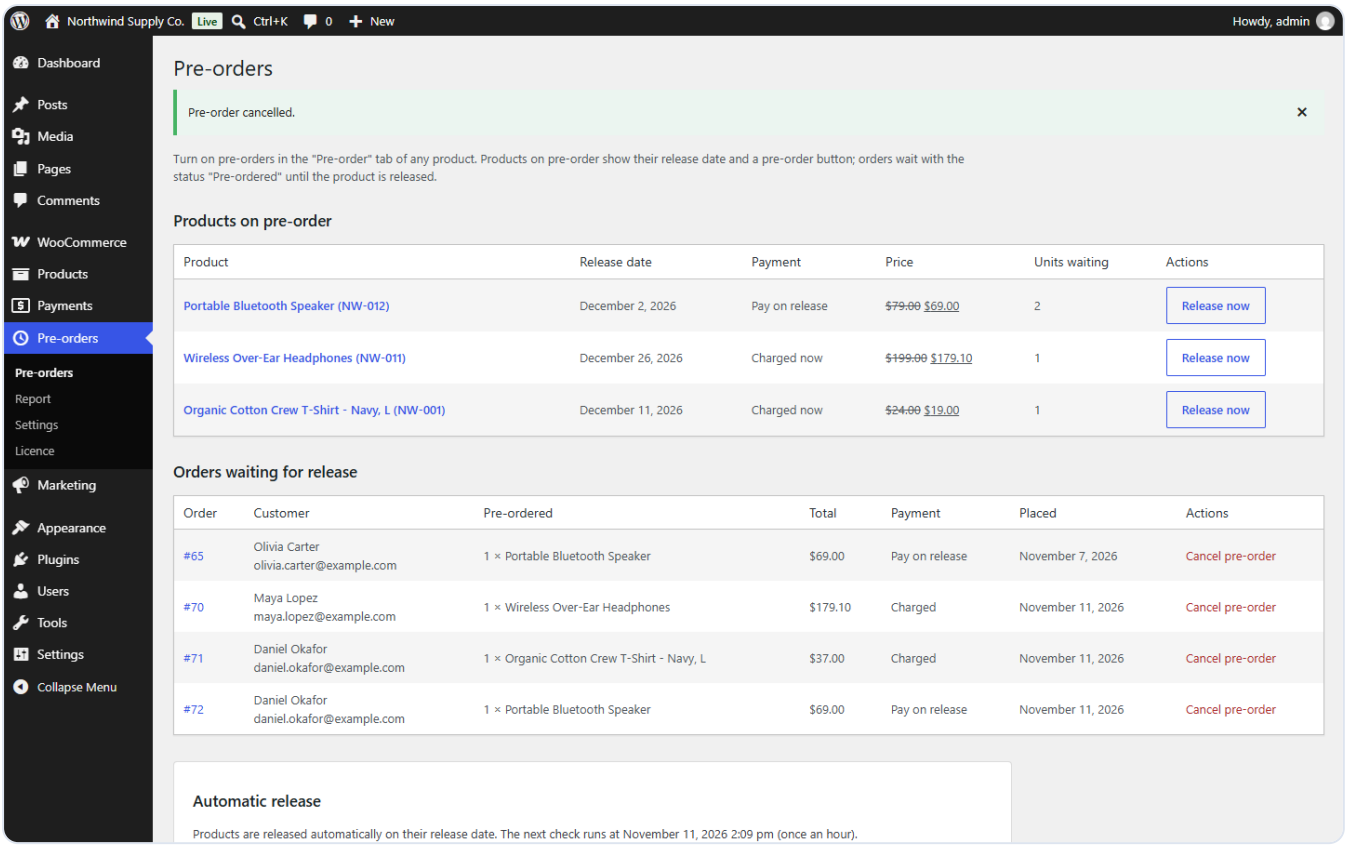
5. Orders and stock

- Paid pre-orders get the order status **Pre-ordered** instead of Processing, so they are not shipped early.
- Pre-ordered units are **not** taken from stock when the order is placed. They are taken when the product is released (paid orders) or when a pay-on-release order is paid. Other products in a mixed order are taken from stock straight away.
- If stock is managed and still 0 at release, it goes below zero to show the units you owe.
- Cancelling an order puts back whatever was taken from stock. Cancelling a charged pre-order does not refund the payment; refund it through your payment method as usual.

6. The Pre-orders screen

Pre-orders → **Pre-orders** (screenshots ,):





- **Products on pre-order**: release date, payment, price and units waiting, with a **Release now** button.
- **Orders waiting for release**: customer, products, total, payment (Charged / Pay on release) and a **Cancel pre-order** link.
- **Automatic release**: products are released on their release date by an hourly WP-Cron check. **Run the release check now** runs it straight away.

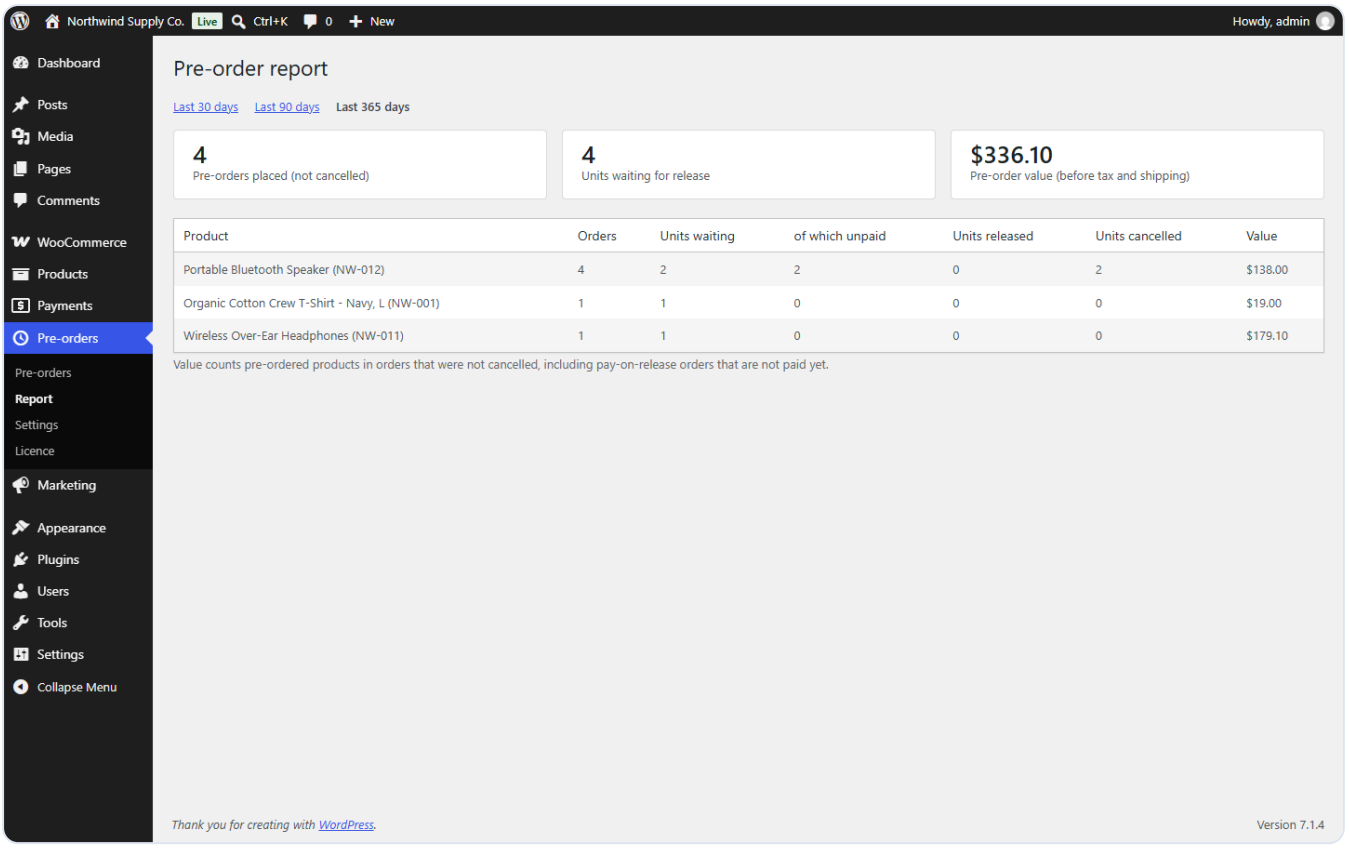
What a release does:

1. The product leaves pre-order: the button, label and price go back to normal.
2. Each waiting order whose pre-ordered products are all released moves on: paid orders → **Processing** (stock taken now); pay-on-release orders → **Pending payment**.
3. The customer gets the **Pre-order released** email (with the payment link when they still have to pay).

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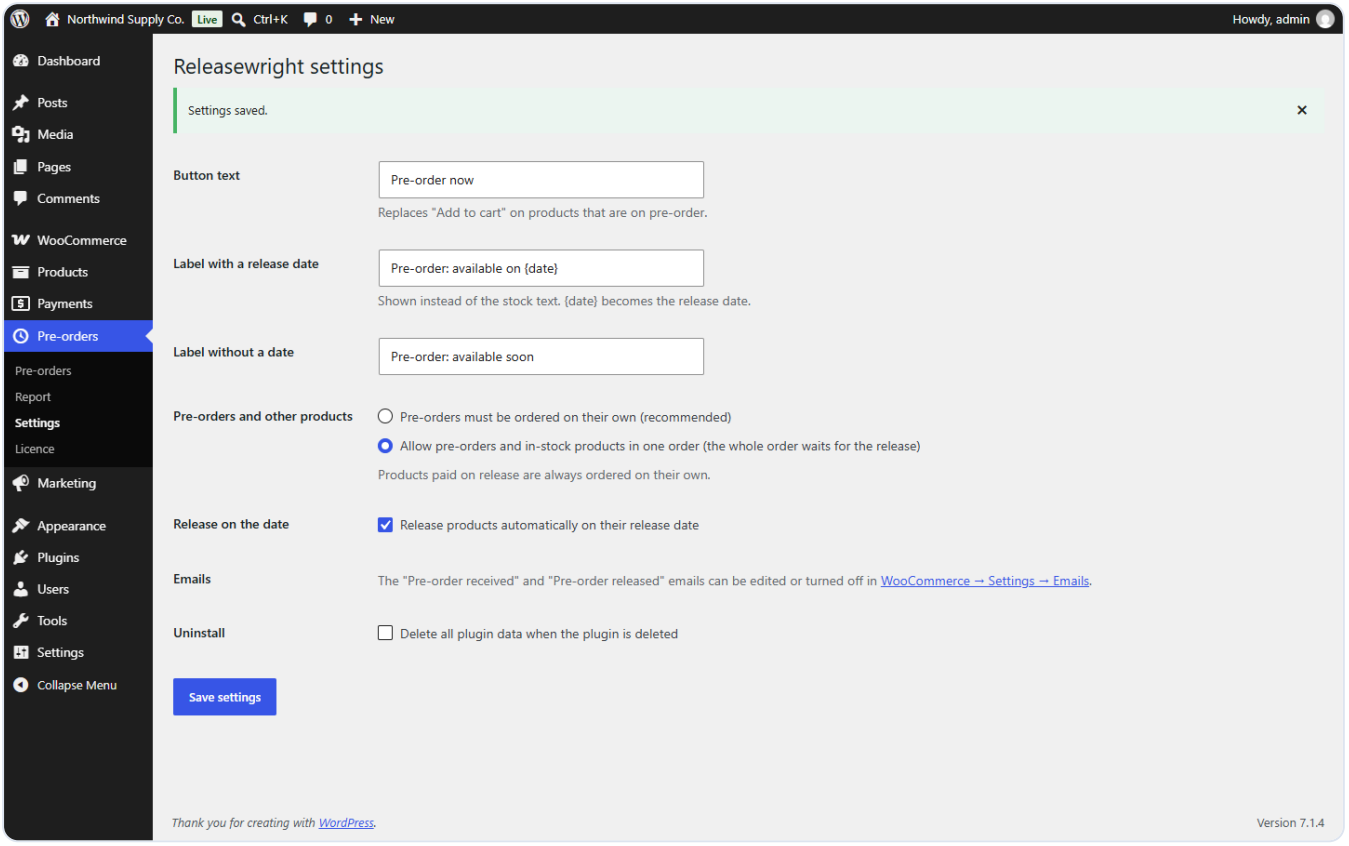
7. Report (Pro)

Pre-orders → **Report** (screenshot) shows, for the last 30, 90 or 365 days: pre-orders placed, units waiting, and per product the orders, units waiting, unpaid units, units released, units cancelled and the value (before tax and shipping).



8. Settings

Pre-orders → Settings (screenshot):



- **Button text** (default "Pre-order now").

- **Label with a release date** — `{date}` becomes the date.
- **Label without a date**.
- **Pre-orders and other products** — the cart rule.
- **Release on the date** — turn automatic release off to release only by hand.
- **Delete all plugin data when the plugin is deleted** — off by default.

Emails

Two WooCommerce emails are added under **WooCommerce → Settings → Emails**, where you can edit their subject, heading and text or turn them off:

- **Pre-order received** — sent when an order is saved as a pre-order.
- **Pre-order released** — sent on release; includes the payment link for pay-on-release orders.

The store's normal **New order** email is sent for pre-orders too.

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9. FAQ

Are cards charged automatically on release? No. Pay-on-release customers pay through the link in the release email.

Can I change the release date later? Yes. Edit the product; the new date shows at once. Orders placed earlier keep the date text they were placed with.

Can I start a new pre-order after a release? Yes. Tick **Pre-orders** again and set a new date.

What if I deactivate the plugin? Orders with the status Pre-ordered keep it, but WooCommerce does not know that status while the plugin is inactive. Release or cancel waiting pre-orders first.

Does it work with WP-Cron turned off? Automatic release on the date needs WP-Cron (or a real cron calling wp-cron.php). Without it, use **Run the release check now** or **Release now**.

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10. Troubleshooting

- **The product is not released on its date** — check that **Release on the date** is ticked in Settings and that WP-Cron runs on your site; or click **Run the release check now**.
- **"Pre-order products must be ordered separately"** — the cart rule is on; allow mixing in Settings if you prefer.
- **No "Pay when it is released" option at checkout** — check that the product's Payment is set to *Pay on release*, that Pro is active, and that the method is enabled under **WooCommerce → Settings → Payments**.
- **Release emails are not arriving** — check the emails are enabled under WooCommerce → Settings → Emails and that your site can send mail (an SMTP plugin helps).