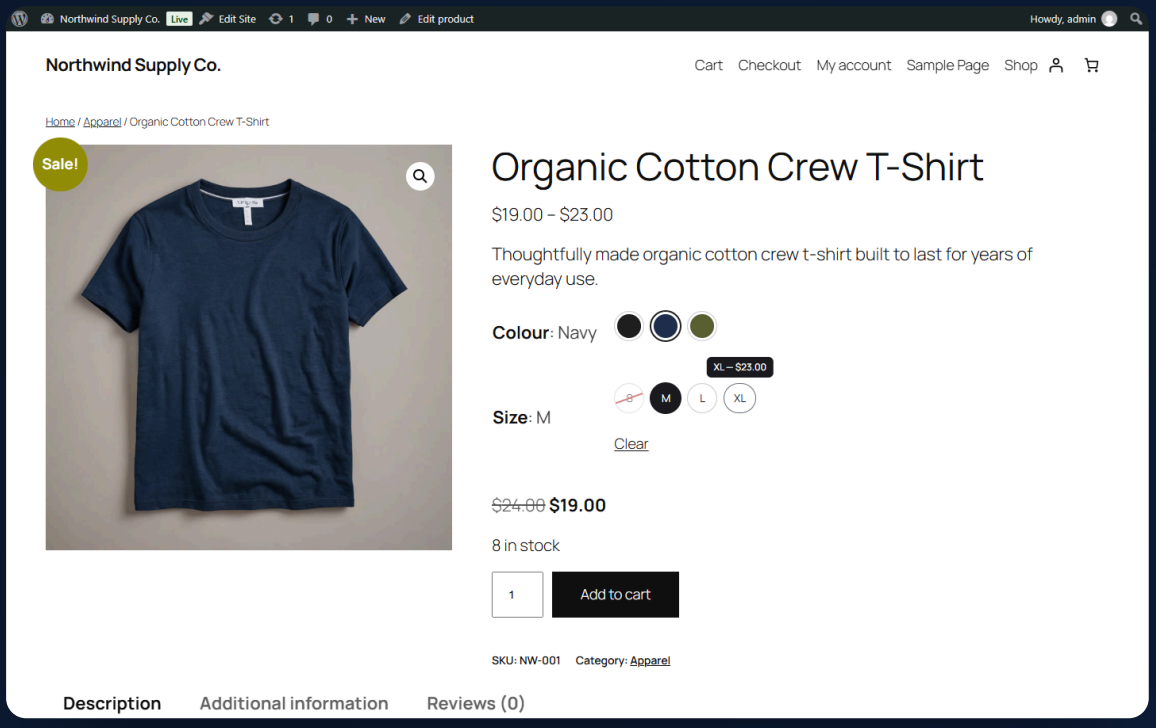
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WOOCOMMERCE PLUGIN · USER GUIDE

Swatchwise — Variation Swatches for WooCommerce

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



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Swatchwise — Variation Swatches for WooCommerce: user guide

Swatchwise replaces the variation dropdowns on your WooCommerce product pages with colour swatches, image swatches and label buttons. WooCommerce's own variation form stays underneath, so prices, stock messages, variation photos and the add-to-cart button keep working as before.

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1. Installation

1. Download the Free or Pro zip from your Code Craft account (or install the Free edition from WordPress.org).
2. In WordPress go to **Plugins** → **Add New** → **Upload Plugin**, choose the zip, click **Install Now**, then **Activate**. WooCommerce 8.0 or newer must be active.
3. A new **Swatchwise** menu appears in the admin sidebar, just below Products.

Upgrading from Free to Pro: upload the Pro zip over the Free plugin (WordPress offers "Replace current with uploaded"). Your colours, images and settings are kept.

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2. Licence activation (Pro)

1. Open **Swatchwise** → **Licence**.
2. Paste the key from your purchase email and click **Activate licence**.
3. Pro features unlock as soon as coodecraft.com confirms the key. Every plan covers one live domain.

Monthly and yearly keys: an admin notice warns you three days before the key ends. When it ends, the Pro features switch off and every product falls back to the Free swatches — nothing breaks on the shop and no setting is lost. Renew, then click **I have paid — check again** on the Licence screen. Lifetime keys never end.

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3. Choose a swatch type per attribute — Swatchwise → Attributes

Screenshot: `pro-NN-attributes.png`

Each global product attribute (Products → Attributes) gets one of four types:

Type	What shoppers see
Label buttons	Buttons with the option name (S, M, L, XL)
Colour swatches	Round or square colour dots

Type	What shoppers see
Image swatches	Small photos (fabric, pattern or the variation photo)
Dropdown	WooCommerce's normal dropdown

Click **Save swatch types**. The table also previews the first terms of every attribute with their colours. Attributes you never set use label buttons, or the normal dropdown if you untick *Show attributes without a swatch type as label buttons* in Settings. Custom attributes typed on a single product follow the same rule.

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4. Colours and images on terms

Screenshots: `pro-NN-term-colour.png`, `pro-NN-colour-terms-list.png`

Click **Colours & images** next to an attribute (or Products → Attributes → Configure terms). On each term:

- **Swatch colour** — pick any colour. Leave it empty and common colour names (Black, White, Navy, Olive, Tan, Burgundy, Sage and about 30 more) get a matching colour automatically.
- **Second colour (Pro)** — makes a two-tone swatch, split diagonally (e.g. Navy & White stripes).
- **Swatch image** — choose an image from the media library; used when the attribute shows image swatches.

The term list gets a **Swatch** column so you can check every colour at a glance.

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5. Settings — Swatchwise → Settings

Screenshot: `pro-NN-settings.png`

Product page swatches

- *Swatches* — turn all swatches on or off.
- *Other attributes* — show attributes without a swatch type as label buttons (on) or as dropdowns (off).
- *Shape* — round, or square with rounded corners.
- *Swatch size* — 16 to 80 px (default 36).
- *Tooltip* — show the option name on hover and keyboard focus.
- *Chosen option* — add "Colour: Navy" next to the attribute name.
- *Out of stock options* — cross out (still clickable, so shoppers see the "Out of stock" message), cross out and disable, or hide. The cross-out follows the shopper's choices: pick Navy and the sizes sold out in Navy are crossed out. This live check works for products with up to 30 variations (WooCommerce sends their data with the page); bigger products cross out options that are sold out in every combination.

Shop pages and extras (Pro)

- *Shop page swatches* — show swatches under variable products on the shop, category and tag pages. Clicking one swaps the product photo to that variation and points the product link to the product with that option pre-selected; clicking it again opens the product.
- *Attribute on shop pages* — Automatic uses the first colour or image attribute of each product.
- *Swatches per product* — e.g. 3; the rest become a "+1 more" link. 0 shows all.
- *Shop swatch size* — 16 to 60 px.
- *Price on swatch* — when the options of an attribute cost different amounts, the tooltip shows the price (e.g. "XL — $23.00", or "from $19.00" when sizes differ inside a colour).
- *Variation images* — image swatches without their own image use the photo of the matching variation.
- *FilterNest* — copy swatch colours and images to FilterNest (our AJAX product filter). Only terms without their own FilterNest colour are filled in; **Copy all swatches now** in the sidebar copies every term at once.

Data — *Delete all plugin data when the plugin is deleted* (off by default).

The sidebar shows a live preview of your shape, size and out-of-stock style.

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6. Per-product settings — Product data → Swatches

Screenshot: `pro-NN-product-swatches-tab.png`

Open any variable product. The **Swatches** tab in the Product data box lists each attribute used for variations:

- *Swatch type* — keep the global setting or choose another type for this product only. For example a T-shirt can use **Image swatches** so its colours appear as photos of each variation (Pro: taken from the variation images automatically).
- *Colour / Image for this product* — overrides the term colour or image for this product only.
- *Use the normal dropdowns on this product* — turns swatches off here.

Save the product with **Update**. New attributes appear in the tab after the product has been saved once.

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7. What shoppers see

Screenshots: `pro-NN-product-swatches.png`, `pro-NN-product-image-swatches.png`, `pro-NN-product-dual-colour.png`, `pro-NN-shop-swatches.png`

- Click a swatch to choose it; click it again to clear it. WooCommerce's **Clear** link still resets all choices.
- The chosen swatch has a dark ring (label buttons turn dark). Sold-out options get a red diagonal line.

- Swatches are real buttons: Tab moves between them, Enter or Space picks one, focus is clearly outlined.
- Without JavaScript the normal dropdown stays visible and usable.

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8. FAQ

Do I have to set a colour on every term? No — common colour names are coloured automatically.

Does it change how variations are added to the cart? No. Swatchwise only sets WooCommerce's own select.

Does it work with block and classic themes? Yes; it hooks into WooCommerce's standard variation form used by both. Tested with Twenty Twenty-Five and Twenty Twenty-One.

Developers: filters `skvs_attribute_type`, `skvs_term_swatch`, `skvs_option_data` and `skvs_enqueue_front`; action `skvs_term_saved` after a term's swatch is saved.

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9. Troubleshooting

- *I still see dropdowns* — check Swatchwise → Settings → Swatches is ticked, the attribute is not set to Dropdown, and the product's Swatches tab does not have *Use the normal dropdowns* ticked.
- *A colour looks wrong* — set it on the term (Colours & images); the automatic colour is only a guess from the name.
- *Image swatches show colours* — the term (or product) has no image; set one, or in Pro tick *Variation images* and give the variations photos.
- *Shop swatches do not appear (Pro)* — the licence must be active, *Shop page swatches* ticked, and the product needs a colour or image attribute (or pick the attribute in *Attribute on shop pages*).