

SOFT79 Expiry dates for WooCommerce

Version: 1.3.3

SOFT79 Expiry dates for Woocommerce allows you to set expiry dates for products. Overdue products can be hidden from stock automatically. It is possible to define different rules on how to handle expiration dates; like 'Best Before Date' and 'Expiry Date'.

1. Installation

- Login to the WordPress admin interface and go to *Plugins – Add New*
- Click *Upload plugin* and upload the zip file containing the plugin.
- When installation succeeds Press *Activate plugin*

2. Uninstall

- Login to the WordPress admin interface and go to *Plugins*
- Find 'SOFT79 Expiry Dates for WooCommerce'.
- *Deactivate* it and then *Delete* it

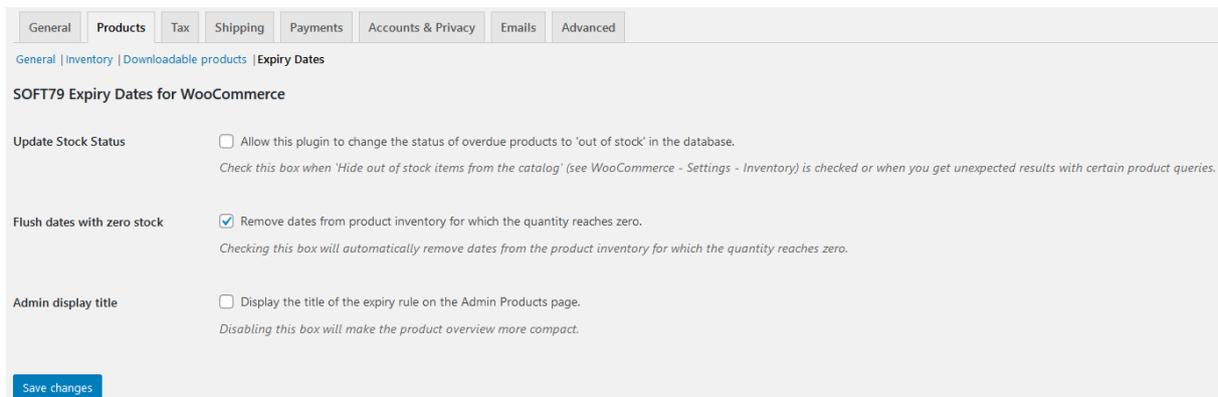
NOTE: No data will be removed when uninstalling the plugin. You won't lose the expiry dates.

3. Upgrade to a new version

- Download the new version of the plugin from your account page on soft79.nl
- Uninstall the current installed version (see [uninstall](#))
- Install the new version (see [installation](#))

4. Plugin settings

Open the settings page by clicking on the *Settings*-link of the plugin on the *Plugins*-page.



General | **Products** | Tax | Shipping | Payments | Accounts & Privacy | Emails | Advanced

General | Inventory | Downloadable products | **Expiry Dates**

SOFT79 Expiry Dates for WooCommerce

Update Stock Status Allow this plugin to change the status of overdue products to 'out of stock' in the database.
Check this box when 'Hide out of stock items from the catalog' (see WooCommerce - Settings - Inventory) is checked or when you get unexpected results with certain product queries.

Flush dates with zero stock Remove dates from product inventory for which the quantity reaches zero.
Checking this box will automatically remove dates from the product inventory for which the quantity reaches zero.

Admin display title Display the title of the expiry rule on the Admin Products page.
Disabling this box will make the product overview more compact.

[Save changes](#)

Figure 1: Settings page

Update stock status

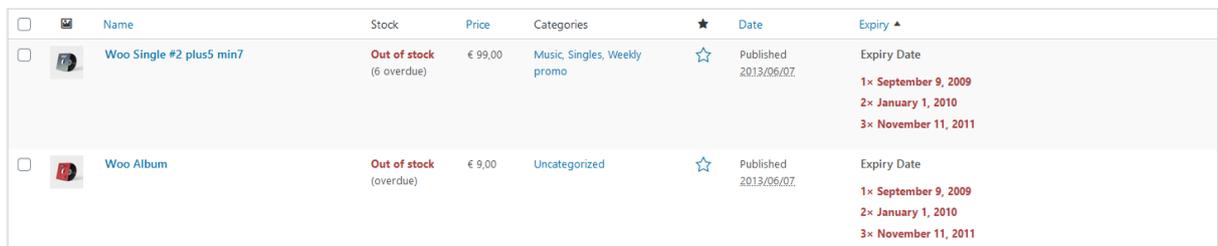
By checking this box you allow the plugin to change the stock state to 'outofstock' in the database. Check this box when WooCommerce setting 'Hide out of stock items from the catalog' is enabled or when you get unexpected results with certain product queries. Default: NO

Flush dates with zero stock

By checking this box, the expiry dates with a quantity of zero will automatically be removed. Uncheck this box if you want to keep these rows for administrative purposes. Default: YES

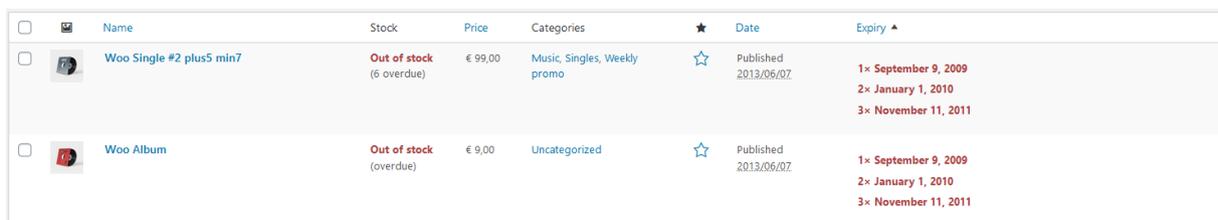
Admin display title

When checked the title of the expiry rule will be displayed on the wp-admin Products screen. Unchecking this option will make the result more compact. Default: NO



<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Stock	Price	Categories	★	Date	Expiry ▲
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Woo Single #2 plus5 min7	Out of stock (6 overdue)	€ 99,00	Music, Singles, Weekly promo	☆	Published 2013/06/07	Expiry Date 1× September 9, 2009 2× January 1, 2010 3× November 11, 2011
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Woo Album	Out of stock (overdue)	€ 9,00	Uncategorized	☆	Published 2013/06/07	Expiry Date 1× September 9, 2009 2× January 1, 2010 3× November 11, 2011

Figure 2: Title of the expiry rule is displayed



<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Stock	Price	Categories	★	Date	Expiry ▲
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Woo Single #2 plus5 min7	Out of stock (6 overdue)	€ 99,00	Music, Singles, Weekly promo	☆	Published 2013/06/07	1× September 9, 2009 2× January 1, 2010 3× November 11, 2011
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Woo Album	Out of stock (overdue)	€ 9,00	Uncategorized	☆	Published 2013/06/07	1× September 9, 2009 2× January 1, 2010 3× November 11, 2011

Figure 3: Title of the expiry rule is not displayed

5. Configure Expiry Rules

Different *Expiry Rules* can be configured. By default two expiry types are predefined; 'Best Before' and 'Expiry Date'.

- Go to *WooCommerce – Products – Expiry Rules*
- An overview of the expiry rules is displayed. Click on the name of an expiry rule to edit it. The following form is displayed:

Edit Expiry Rule

Name
The name is how it appears on your site.

Slug
The "slug" is the URL-friendly version of the name. It is usually all lowercase and contains only letters, numbers, and hyphens.

Description
The description is not prominent by default; however, some themes may show it.

Display expiry date

- Display expiry date on cart page
- Display expiry date on product page
- Display expiry date on order confirmation

Hide from stock Hide from stock days before the product's expiry date.
Check this box to prevent customers from purchasing overdue products. Use a negative value to hide from stock after the product's expiry date.

Customize the predefined expiry rules if required.

Note: By default products with a 'Best Before'-date will be hidden from stock 14 days *after* the expiry date, this is because a negative number of days has been entered. Products with an 'Expiry date' will be hidden from stock 7 days *before* the expiry date.

6. Set expiry dates for products

- Open the *Edit product*-page for the product you want to apply an expiry date to.
- Go to the *Inventory*-tab.
- At the bottom of the tab choose an Expiry Rule
- Enter one or more dates in combination with the stock quantity.

The screenshot shows the 'Inventory' tab of a product edit page. The 'Product Data' dropdown is set to 'Simple product'. The 'SKU' is 'QCN-376'. 'Manage stock?' is checked. 'Stock quantity' is '12'. 'Allow backorders?' is 'Do not allow'. 'Stock status' is 'In stock'. 'Sold individually' is unchecked. The 'Expiry Rule' is set to 'Expiry Date'. Below this, there are three rows of input fields for 'Date' and 'Qty (Optional)'. The first row has '2016-12-01' and '6'. The second row has '2017-06-11' and 'Qty'. The third row has 'Date YYYY-MM' and 'Qty'.

Figure 4: Editing the expiry dates of a product

Note: If stock quantity is omitted for an expiry date, all the remaining items in stock will have that expiry date.

Note: If the sum of the expiry dates stock quantities is less than the product stock quantity; the remaining stock items can be purchased, but won't present a expiry date.

Note: If the sum of the expiry dates stock quantities exceed product stock quantity; the product stock quantity value has precedence over the expiry dates stock quantities.

7. Stock management

If the *Hide from stock*-checkbox is checked for an Expiry Rule, overdue products will automatically be hidden from stock in the product catalog.

Please note that the actual stock quantity on the 'Edit Product'-page will not be altered by this plugin; this value is the total amount of products either overdue or not.

Example: When 10 items are in stock and 4 are overdue, the customer can only purchase 6 items.

If products with an expiry date are purchased, the stock quantities for the expiry dates will be automatically decreased.

On the *Expiry Rules*-page click on the value under *Posts* to view all products with that expiry rule.

Products-page

A column 'Expiry' will be added to the *Products*-page. You can toggle the visibility of a columns by pressing *Screen Options* in the upper-right corner of the *Products*-page.

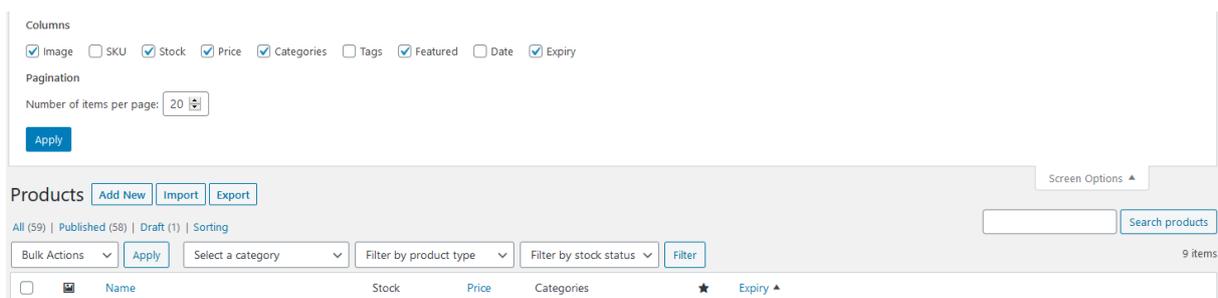


Figure 5: Toggle column visibility

The column 'Expiry' displays the expiry date(s) of the product. Clicking the column title will filter out products that have no expiry date and will sort the products by expiry date.

The date is displayed orange if this date has passed, but items with that expiry date can still be purchased.

The date is displayed red when items with that expiry date can no longer be purchased.

Products							Screen Options ▾	Help ▾
<input type="button" value="Add New"/> <input type="button" value="Import"/> <input type="button" value="Export"/>							<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Search products"/>
All (59) Published (58) Draft (1) Sorting								
Bulk Actions ▾	<input type="button" value="Apply"/>	Select a category ▾	Filter by product type ▾	Filter by stock status ▾	<input type="button" value="Filter"/>	9 items		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Stock	Price	Categories	★	Expiry ▲		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Woo Album #1	In stock (14 + 21 overdue)	€ 11,00 € 8,90	Albums, Music, Weekly promo	☆	Best before 21× January 1, 2019 11× January 10, 2020 3× November 11, 2021		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Woo Single #2 plus5 min7	In stock (3 + 33 overdue)	€ 99,00	Music, Singles, Weekly promo	☆	Expiry Date 22× January 1, 2019 11× January 5, 2020 3× November 11, 2021		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Woo Album	In stock (3 + 33 overdue)	€ 9,00	Uncategorized	☆	Expiry Date 22× January 1, 2019 11× January 10, 2020 3× November 11, 2021		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Woo Album	Out of stock (22 overdue)	€ 9,00	Albums, Music	☆	Best before 22× January 2, 2019		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Woo Single #1	In stock (3 + 33 overdue)	€ 2,55–€ 3,00	Music, Singles, Weekly promo	☆	Expiry Date 22× January 4, 2019 11× January 25, 2020 3× November 11, 2021		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Woo Album #3	Out of stock (20 overdue)	€ 123,00	Albums, Music, Weekly promo	☆	Expiry Date 20× January 5, 2019		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hidden product	Out of stock (33 overdue)	€ 3,00	Music, Singles, Weekly promo	☆	Best before 33× March 9, 2019		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Woo Album #4	In stock (3 + 11 overdue)	€ 0,00	Albums, Music, Weekly promo	☆	Expiry Date 11× January 10, 2020 3× November 11, 2021		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Woo Single #2 plus5 min7	In stock (3)	€ 3,00	Singles, Weekly promo	☆	Expiry Date 3× September 2, 2020		

Figure 6: Expiry dates are displayed on the Products-page

In the 'Stock'-column, the amount of purchasable (not overdue) products will be displayed. If there are overdue items in stock, the amount of overdue products will be displayed separately.

8. Import / Export

WooCommerce has a built-in import- and export functionality. The 'Expiry Dates for WooCommerce'-plugin adds two columns to the import/export functionality; 'Expiry Dates' and 'Expiry Rule'.

Export

Go to WP-Admin > All Products and click 'Export' to export products.

Products [Add New](#) [Import](#) [Export](#)

Export products to a CSV file

This tool allows you to generate and download a CSV file containing a list of all products.

Which columns should be exported?

- Export all columns
- Button text
- Position
- Expiry Dates**
- Expiry Rule
- Downloads
- Attributes

Which product types should be exported?

Which product category should be exported?

Export custom meta? yes, export all custom meta

[Generate CSV](#)

Figure 7: Export products to a CSV file

By clicking 'Generate CSV' the products will be exported to a CSV file. This file can be edited with Excel or a similar tool.

Column values

	A	B	C	D	E
1	ID	Name	Stock	Expiry Rule	Expiry Dates
2	23	Ship Your Idea - Black	48	expiry-date	2020-06-10 x 48
3	83	Woo Album #1	35	best-before	2019-01-01 x 21, 2020-01-10 x 11, 2021-11-11 x3
4	87	Woo Album	22	best-before	2019-01-02 x 22
5	90	Woo Album #3	20	expiry-date	2019-01-05 x 20
6	93	Woo Single #1	36	expiry-date	2019-01-04 x 22, 2020-01-25 x 11, 2021-11-11 x3
7	96	Woo Album #4	14	expiry-date	2020-01-10 x 11, 2021-11-11 x 3
8	99	Woo Single #2 plus5 min7	36	expiry-date	2019-01-01 x 22, 2020-01-05 x 11, 2021-11-11 x3
9	491	Woo Single #2 plus5 min7	3	expiry-date	2020-09-02 x 3
10	493	Woo Album	36	expiry-date	2019-01-01 x 22, 2020-01-10 x 11, 2021-11-11 x3
11	938	Hidden product	33	best-before	2019-03-09 x 33
12					

The 'Expiry Rule'-column contains the slug of the expiry rule, see chapter 5.

The 'Expiry Dates'-column contains the expiry dates and stock quantities of the product. Multiple expiry dates can be entered separated by a comma ',' or a pipe-symbol '|'.

The format of the expiry date must be as follows:

`year-month-day x quantity`

or

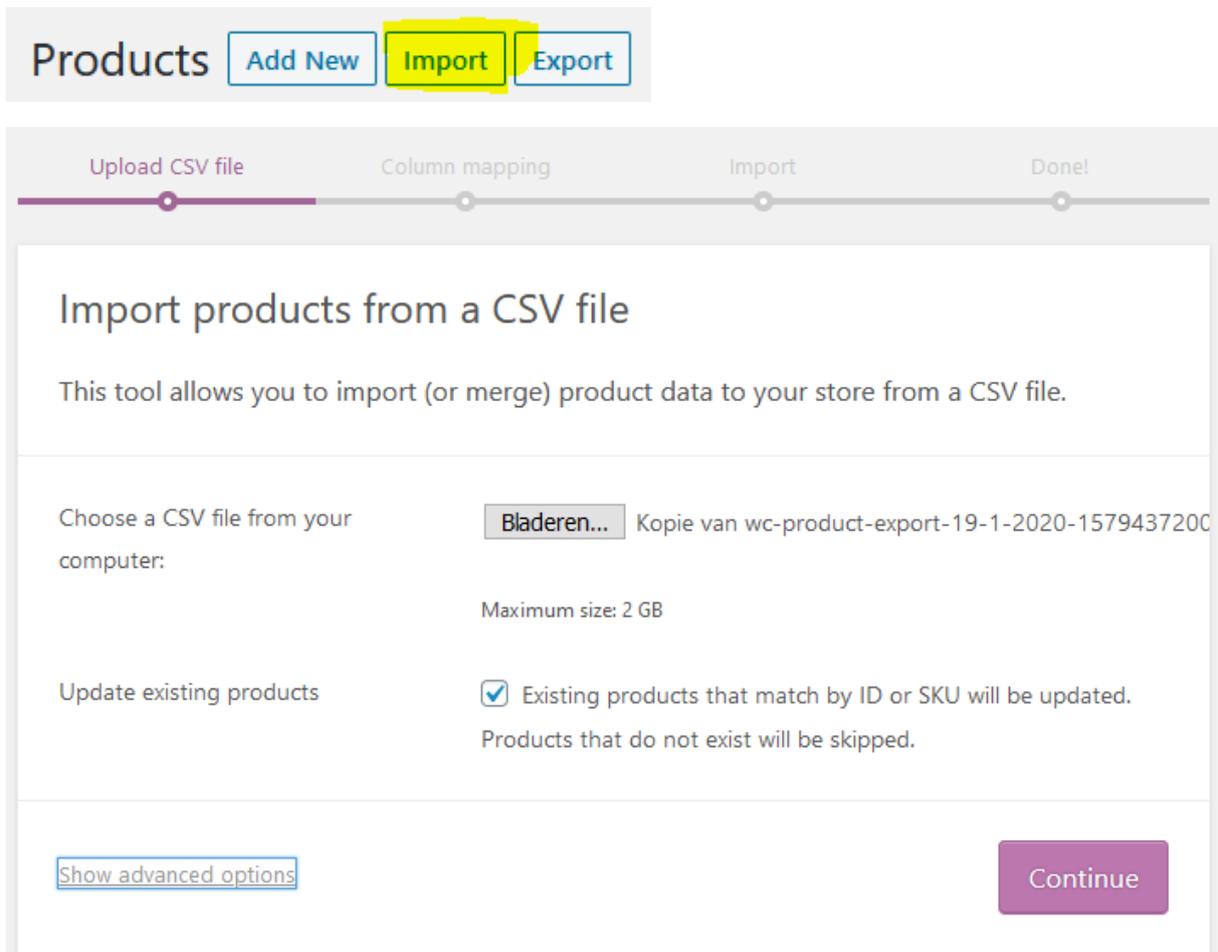
`year-month-day`

year	Year, 4 digits
month	Month, 1 or 2 digits
day	Day of the month, 1 or 2 digits
quantity	Quantity of products with this expiry date (optional)

Please note that the 'Expiry Rule' can't be empty for products with an expiry date. If this field is empty, the expiry dates for the product will not be enabled.

Import

Go to WP-Admin > All Products and click 'Import' to import products.



The screenshot shows the 'Products' management area in WordPress. The 'Import' button is highlighted in yellow. Below it is the 'Import products from a CSV file' screen. A progress bar at the top indicates the current step is 'Import'. The main content area has the heading 'Import products from a CSV file' and a sub-heading 'This tool allows you to import (or merge) product data to your store from a CSV file.' There are two main sections: 'Choose a CSV file from your computer:' with a file selection button labeled 'Bladeren...' and a file name 'Kopie van wc-product-export-19-1-2020-1579437200'. Below this is 'Maximum size: 2 GB'. The second section is 'Update existing products' with a checked checkbox and the text 'Existing products that match by ID or SKU will be updated. Products that do not exist will be skipped.' At the bottom, there is a 'Show advanced options' link and a purple 'Continue' button.

Figure 8: Import products from a CSV file

Choose the CSV-file to import and tick the box 'Update existing products' if you wish to overwrite the values for existing products.

Show advanced options if you need to change the CSV delimiter (e.g. ; or ,).

Click continue. On the next screen map the CSV fields to product-fields:

Upload CSV file Column mapping Import Done!

Map CSV fields to products

Select fields from your CSV file to map against products fields, or to ignore during import.

Column name	Map to field
ID <i>Sample: 23</i>	ID
Name <i>Sample: Ship Your Idea - Black</i>	Do not import
Stock <i>Sample: 48</i>	Stock
Expiry Rule <i>Sample: expiry-date</i>	Expiry Rule
Expiry Dates <i>Sample: 2020-06-10 x 48</i>	Expiry Dates

[Run the importer](#)

Figure 9: Importer - Map CSV fields to products

If you only need to overwrite stock and expiry dates it is sufficient to only map the following fields:

- ID
- Stock
- Expiry Rule
- Expiry Dates

Click 'Run the importer' to import the file.