

Web Design & Publishing

WordPress Plugins

You add plugins on WordPress by going to **Plugins > Add New**. There you can search by topic or name. There are thousands of plugins. You just have to try them out, figure out how they work, and see if you like them.

Some plugins are not compatible with others, but keep looking. You can find another that does mostly the same thing. Most importantly, only install plugins from the WordPress site itself.

» Theme Extensions

If you are using the Twenty-Eleven template, you may need to install the Twenty-Eleven Theme Extension plugin to get more options.

» Twitter Widget

There are many Twitter plugins out there. All are easy to install and activate. Then you will find them in **Widgets**, drag to your sidebar and configure with your Twitter username or search string. Some I have tried are:

- **Comprehensive Twitter Search Widget**
- **Twitter for WordPress**
- **Twitter Widget**

» Social Bookmarks

There are also many different social bookmarking plugins. Try one of these:

- **Facebook, Twitter, Google+ Social Widgets**
 - » Install and activate.
 - » Use the settings to decide where you want them to show up, like posts, pages, etc.
 - » Conflicts with WP Featured Content Slider.
- **Social Bookmarks**
 - » Lets you pick pages you want to include them and which bookmarks you want to use.
 - » Conflicts with WP Featured Content Slider.
- **WP Social Bookmarking Light**
 - » Settings allow you to customize and pick the social services you want to include.
 - » Does not conflict with the WP Featured Content Slider.

» Photo Galleries

There are lots of these too, but try some of the following.

- **Lightbox Gallery:** Turn any photo gallery into a lightbox presentation.
 - » Set up a gallery in a post and that's it. When you click on an image, it displays it in a lightbox.
 - » Look for the Download Scripts button in the right sidebar when you are looking at the settings. You get additional options by installing them.
- **Slideshow Gallery:** Upload images via the slideshow options that you set when you activate the plugin.
 - » Add gallery.
 - » Add slides and assign to gallery.
 - » Use the shortcode to install in a post [`[slideshow gallery_id="1"]`].
 - » In **Slideshow > Configuration** change dimensions and other options; can choose Show Thumbnails, place at bottom.
- **Featured Content Slider:** This one requires a little coding. It provides a check box in posts for you to indicate if it should be Featured Content (can be pages or posts).
 - » Install and activate.
 - » You must select an image from a gallery as a featured image. Then find in the PHP code where you want it to display.
 - » I typically like it to show up only on the **homepage**, if it is the blog. So, go in to main index template, `index.php` (use Appearance > Editor) and find the place where the PHP inserts the header:

```
<?php get_header(); ?>
```

Right after that, insert this code:

```
<?php include (ABSPATH . '/wp-content/plugins/wp-featured-content-slider/content-slider.php');?>
```

- » If you want it to show on your **pages**, then place that code in `page.php`. If you would like it to show on a page, but only the front page, use this:

```
<?php if ( is_front_page() ) {include (ABSPATH . '/wp-content/plugins/wp-featured-content-slider/content-slider.php');} ?>
```

This works best when you have good content to include in the description. You can do other things to customize, but it helps to be able to work in the PHP.

- » Visit the plugin site to see these instructions in more detail. I had to work with the Settings and even a little in the code to get the slider to display the way I wanted. But it is a cool effect once you get it working.

» Site Maintenance and Improvement

There are also some great plugins that help you with some of the less visible parts of Web maintenance.

- **Contact Form 7:** A contact form plugin. Simple but flexible.
- **Embedly:** The Embedly Plugin extends Wordpress's Oembed feature, allowing bloggers to Embed from 230+ services and counting.
- **Google Analytics for WordPress:** This plugin makes it simple to add Google Analytics to your WordPress blog, adding lots of features, like custom variables and automatic clickout and download tracking.
- **Updraft Plus – Backup/Restore:** Backup and restore: take backups locally, or backup to Amazon S3, Dropbox, Google Drive, Rackspace, (S)FTP, WebDAV & email, on automatic schedules.