How to Schedule Automatic Plugin and Theme Downloads (Pro)

Pro Features · https://wpfactory.com/docs/automate-backups-pro/

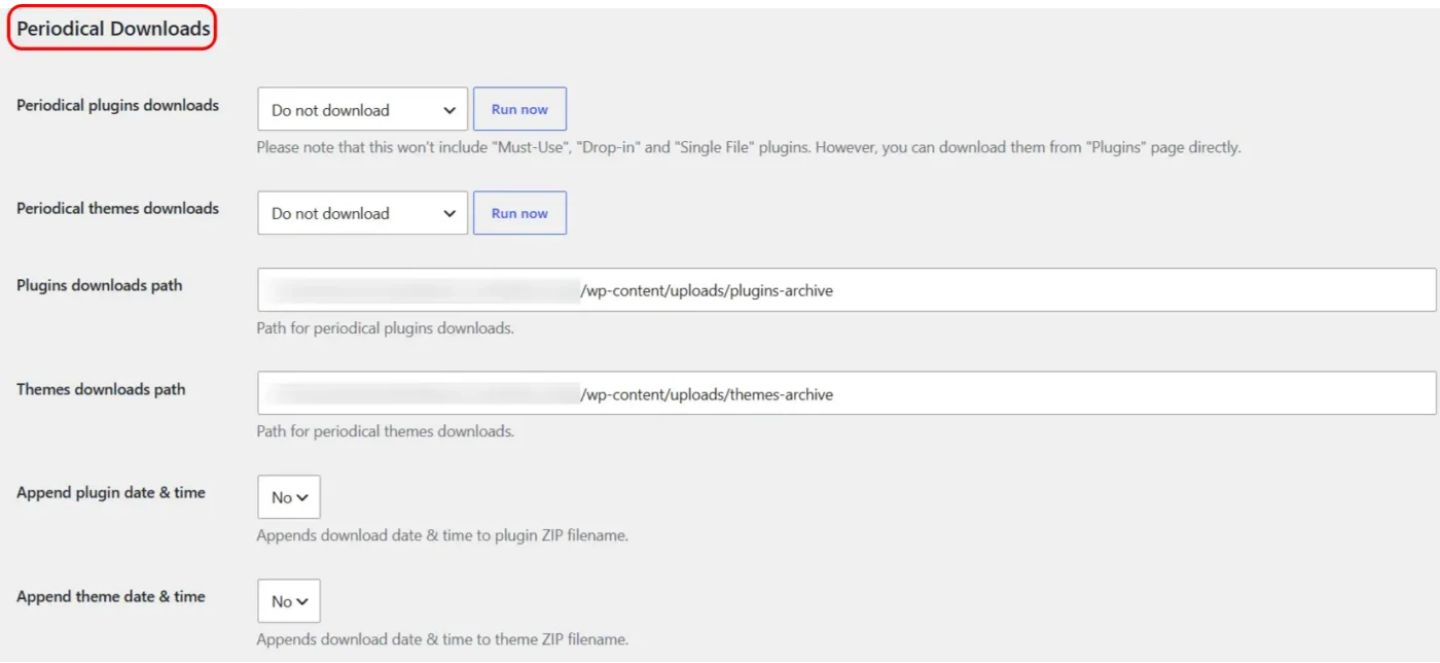
To schedule automatic downloads with Download Plugins and Themes in ZIP from Dashboard Pro, go to WPFactory > Download plugins and Themes and scroll to Periodical Downloads. Set Periodical plugins downloads or Periodical themes downloads to an interval, from once a minute to every 4 weeks, optionally set the downloads path, and click Save settings.

Before you start

- Download Plugins and Themes Pro (periodical downloads are Pro only).
- A writable destination folder on the server (a default under `wp-content/uploads` is provided).
- WordPress cron running on your site (periodical downloads use WP-Cron events).

Set up a schedule

1. Go to **WPFactory > Download plugins and Themes** and scroll to **Periodical Downloads**.
2. Set **Periodical plugins downloads** and/or **Periodical themes downloads** to an interval: once a minute, hourly, twice daily, daily, weekly, or every 4 weeks. Leave on **Do not download** to disable.
3. Optionally set the **Plugins downloads path** and **Themes downloads path**, the format options below, then click **Save settings**.
4. Use the **Run now** button next to a schedule to trigger a download immediately without waiting for the next run.



> **Note:** periodical plugin downloads do **not** include **Must-Use**, **Drop-in** or **single-file** plugins. You can still download those manually from the **Plugins** screen.

Filename and packaging options

- **Append plugin/theme date & time:** adds the download date and time to each ZIP filename, so versions stay separated (for example `my-plugin-2026-07-21-13-30-00.zip`).
- **Plugins/Themes output file(s):** choose *Each plugin's zip* (one ZIP per item), *All plugins in single zip* (one combined ZIP), or *Each plugin's zip + All plugins in single zip* (both).
- **Plugins/Themes single ZIP file name:** the name used for the combined ZIP when you pick an "all" option (defaults: `plugins` and `themes`).

Options reference

Label	Option key	Default	Free/Pro
Periodical plugins downloads	`alg_download_plugins_dashboard_plugins_bulk_period`	Do not download	Pro

Label	Option key	Default	Free/Pro
Periodical themes downloads	`alg_download_plugins_dashboard_themes_bulk_period`	Do not download	Pro
Plugins downloads path	`alg_download_plugins_dashboard_plugins_bulk_dir`	`uploads/plugins-archive`	Pro
Themes downloads path	`alg_download_plugins_dashboard_themes_bulk_dir`	`uploads/themes-archive`	Pro
Append plugin date & time	`alg_download_plugins_dashboard_plugins_append_date_time`	No	Pro
Append theme date & time	`alg_download_plugins_dashboard_themes_append_date_time`	No	Pro
Plugins output file(s)	`alg_download_plugins_dashboard_plugins_output_files`	Each plugin's zip	Pro
Themes output file(s)	`alg_download_plugins_dashboard_themes_output_files`	Each theme's zip	Pro
Plugins single ZIP file name	`alg_download_plugins_dashboard_plugins_single_zip_file_name`	`plugins`	Pro

Label	Option key	Default	Free/Pro
Themes single ZIP file name	`alg_download_plugins_dashboard_themes_single_zip_file_name`	`themes`	Pro

Housekeeping

Frequent schedules and combined archives can build up disk usage. Clean out the download folders from time to time, and pick an interval that matches how often your plugins actually change.



DOWNLOAD PLUGINS AND THEMES

Periodical downloads are a Pro feature of Download Plugins and Themes. If you are still on the free version, upgrading unlocks scheduled downloads along with the rest of the Pro toolkit.

Get the Pro version →

Related articles

- Download Plugins and Themes: Free vs Pro Versions Compared
- How to Download a Single Plugin or Theme as a ZIP
- Settings Reference: Every Option in Download Plugins and Themes
- Download Plugins and Themes: Developer Hooks and Filters Reference
- Using Download Plugins and Themes on a WordPress Multisite Network