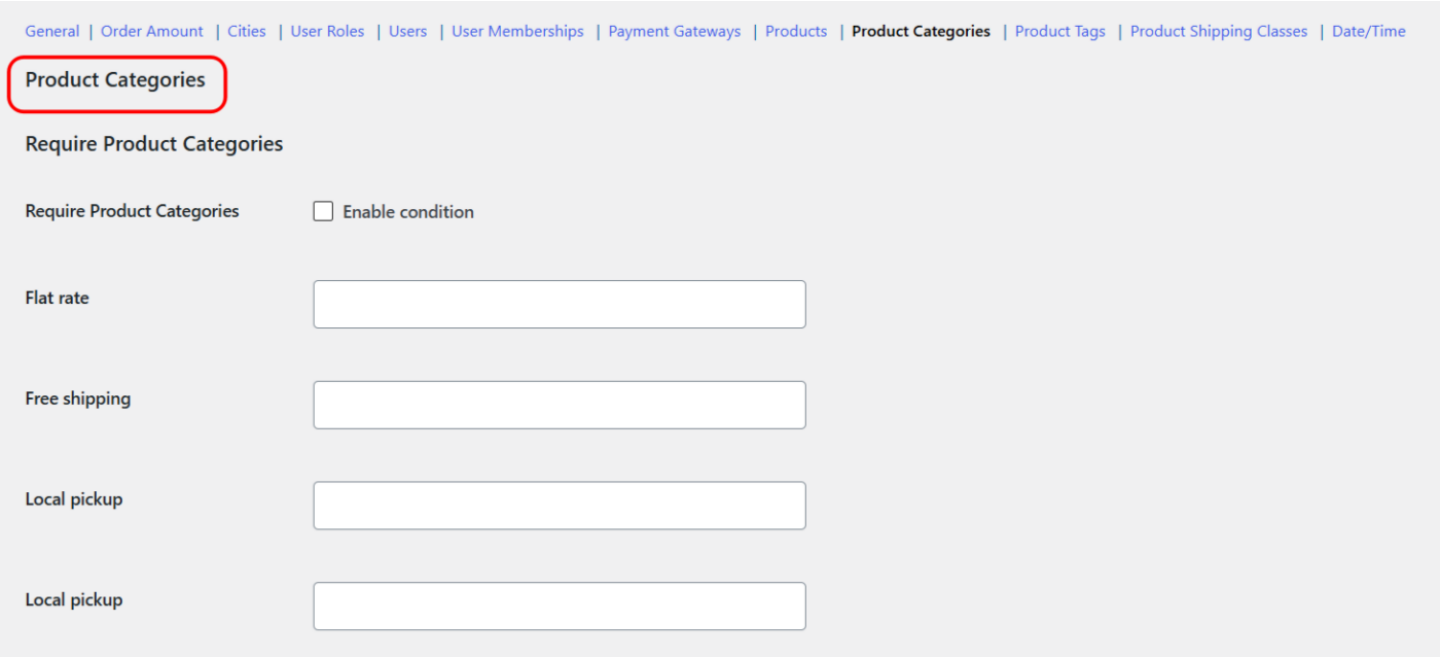
Conditional Shipping by Product Category

How to · https://wpfactory.com/docs/conditional-category-shipping/

To control shipping methods by the categories in the cart, use the Require Product Categories and Exclude Product Categories conditions in Conditional Shipping for WooCommerce: Restrict Shipping Options by Anything. Instead of listing individual products, you point a shipping method at whole categories, which is easier to maintain as your catalog grows.



Before you start

- WooCommerce, active, with your products assigned to meaningful categories.
- Conditional Shipping installed and enabled. Both conditions are free.

Step-by-step setup

1. Go to **WPFactory > Conditional Shipping** (also reachable at **WooCommerce > Settings > Conditional Shipping**).
2. Open the **Product Categories** section.

3. To limit a method to certain categories, tick **Enable condition** for **Require Product Categories**, then select those categories next to the method.
4. To hide a method when certain categories are in the cart, tick **Enable condition** for **Exclude Product Categories**, then select those categories next to the method.
5. Leave a method's value empty to apply no category rule to it.
6. Save changes and test with a product from a selected category in the cart.

A rule triggers when a cart item belongs to a selected category. For Require, that item makes the method available; for Exclude, it removes the method. Only the categories you actually select matter, so pick the ones that describe the products you want to target.

The Require all option

Require Product Categories honors the **Require all** general option (`wpjup_wc_cond_shipping_validate_all`, in the General section, default No). With it off, one matching item is enough for the method to show. With it on, every item in the cart must belong to a selected category before the method appears.

Options reference

Label	Option ID	Type	Default	Free/
Require Product Categories (Enable condition)	`wpjup_wc_cond_shipping_product_cat_incl_enabled`	Checkbox	No	Free
Required categories, per shipping method	`wpjup_wc_cond_shipping_product_cat_incl_method[{method_id}]`	Multiselect (product categories)	Empty	Free

Label	Option ID	Type	Default	Free/
Exclude Product Categories (Enable condition)	`wpjup_wc_cond_shipping_product_cat_excl_enabled`	Checkbox	No	Free
Excluded categories, per shipping method	`wpjup_wc_cond_shipping_product_cat_excl_method[{method_id}]`	Multiselect (product categories)	Empty	Free
Require all (General)	`wpjup_wc_cond_shipping_validate_all`	Checkbox	No	Free

Each condition also has its own optional notice (`wpjup_wc_cond_shipping_product_cat_incl_notice[enabled]` and `[content]`, and the matching `_excl` keys), shown before the cart and checkout forms when a method was hidden by that condition.

Use cases

- **Category promotion:** require an Accessories category on a Free Shipping method to lift sales there.
- **Protect fragile goods:** exclude a Fragile Items category from Local Pickup so those orders always ship by a safer method.
- **Whole-cart rule:** combine Require Product Categories with **Require all** so a method shows only when every item is from your chosen categories.

Troubleshooting

- **The method appears too often:** by default one matching item is enough. If you meant "the whole cart must qualify", enable **Require all**.

- **The rule never matches:** confirm the products actually carry the selected category, and that **Enable condition** is ticked on the correct method row.
- **Need to start over:** tick **Reset section settings** in the Product Categories section and save to reset it to defaults.



CONDITIONAL SHIPPING

These category conditions are free. Conditional Shipping for WooCommerce: Restrict Shipping Options by Anything Pro adds the "Use shipping instances" option, so you can set conditions per shipping-method instance (a specific Flat rate inside a specific zone) instead of globally per method type.

See what Pro unlocks →

Related articles

- Conditional Shipping by Product Shipping Class
- Conditional Shipping by Product Tag
- Conditional Shipping by Product
- Getting Started with Conditional Shipping for WooCommerce
- Conditional Shipping by Date and Time