Ensure Unique EAN/GTIN Codes: Avoid Duplicates

Troubleshooting · https://wpfactory.com/docs/unique-ean-gtin-codes/

To keep auto-generated EAN codes unique, do not manually change or reset the seed counter in Tools > Generate, including after you delete products. If you suspect duplicates, search by EAN to find repeated values and fix them by hand. For large catalogs, keep a backup list of product IDs and their EANs.

Problem Description

Merchants worry that when they auto-generate EANs for many products, especially in large catalogs, or after deleting old products, the plugin might generate duplicate EAN codes, causing conflicts or incorrect product identification.

Common symptoms / concerns:

- Fear that after deleting sold-out products, their EAN codes might be reused. WordPress.org
- Users request confirmation that the plugin won't assign same EAN to different products after bulk generation. WordPress.org

Cause:

- Automatic generation relies on a "seed" (product ID or a counter) if counter is reset or manually modified, there's a risk of duplication. WordPress.org
- Without a stable seed mechanism, deletion + regeneration can overlap previous codes.

Solution:

1. When generating EAN codes automatically, ensure the "seed counter" option in **Tools → Generate** is not manually changed or reset. This ensures uniqueness. WordPress.org

2. After generating EANs, export a full list of product IDs and EANs, maintain a backup spreadsheet to track assigned codes (especially for large catalogs).
3. When deleting products, **do not clear or reset the seed counter**, this avoids reusing old codes.
4. If you suspect duplicates: use plugin's "search by EAN" tool (or database query) to detect repeated EAN values and manually fix them.
5. For critical operations (e.g. POS, feed exports, barcode printing), test a small batch before bulk generation.

Prerequisites:

- Latest version of EAN plugin.
- Access to plugin settings (seed counter, Tools).

Additional Notes:

- If you operate a dynamic catalog with frequent product deletions/additions, consider generating EAN once when product is created and never regenerating automatically.
- Maintain offline backup of EAN assignments for audit and troubleshooting.



EAN FOR WOOCOMMERCE

See every feature and the pricing on the EAN for WooCommerce plugin page.

View plugin →

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- How to Set Up EAN, UPC and GTIN Codes in WooCommerce
- EAN/GTIN Empty in Feeds After Mapping Custom Attribute

- Add EAN to Product Structured Data (GTIN for Google)
- Add EAN and GTIN to the WooCommerce REST API
- Barcodes Missing or Extra Text on Printed EAN Labels