

How to promote WordPress Plugins and Themes - The Checklist

Always be Testing

 Constantly experiment and track feedback to figure out what works for you and your market

Build Something of Value

- Improve your customer's life in a tangible way, solve real-life problems
- Be unique, meaning better, different or somehow superior to what is already out there
- Concentrate just as much on design and usability as on functionality

Be Focused and Go Niche

- Limit yourself to a target group and build something that is focused in its functionality
- Pick a niche you understand, a market you yourself are part of or know very well
- Scratch your own itch then sell your solution to others with the same problem
- Use marketing personas and other tools to get to know your target group beforehand

Offer Proper Documentation

- Invest in the user interface, make sure your customers have all the information they need.
- Annotate your settings, name and explain input fields and buttons clearly.
- Offer external resources (website, FAQs, tutorials, blog posts) to help users help themselves

Make Support a Priority

- Provide an easy way for your users to ask for help (contact form, social media, WordPress support forums)
- Keep up with the development cycle and offer continuous support for your product

Look Professional

- Have a professional website with clean design, a good structure that is mobile ready
- Provide testimonials from real customers for social proof
- Invest in your about page to build trust and connect with your users

Give Something Away For Free

- Freemium A free basic product accompanied by a paid version with additional features
- Paid Addons Offer a free core product but ask for money for addons
- Advertisement Include (non-infuriating) ads for your paid offers in a good free product

Take Advantage of the WordPress Directory

- Include your keyword plus brand name in the plugin name (*Google Analytics by Yoast*)
- Provide a meaningful description and screenshots.
- Add relevant tags (have a look at the most popular)
- Provide a professional-looking header image
- Ask for ratings from existing users

Optimize Readme.txt

- Optimize the header section, includec ontributors, tags, URLs, WordPress version, stable tag
- Provide a short explanation about the plugin's capabilities
- Include a useful long description with features requirements and other relevant information
- Offer an installation guide and FAQ so users can get started and overcome problems quickly

Blog To Build Authority

 Give away advice and solve other people's problems for free to build trust and authority

Create Video Tutorials

- Add a transcription and closed captions, search engines use them to determine video content and relevancy
- Use relevant tags to make it easier for users to find your videos
- If you have several recordings on related topics, make sure to combine them into a playlist
- Link back to your products in the video description below





Guest Blog

 Contribute to relevant websites to spread the news about your plugin or theme. Explore related topics to your product or tell your story and lessons learned during development.

Sponsored Posts

 Have your product reviewed in exchange for money to gain permanent links and additional social promotion

Networking and Outreach

- Let blogs and influencers know about your plugin or theme
- Describe your product, its features and the problem it solves, refrain from being too salesy
- If you have a paid product, give away free copies to reviewers
- Be available to answer questions from readers in the comments of review articles
- Alternatively, get in touch with freelance writers who work for relevant blogs

Inform Your Direct Environment

- Email personal contacts in your niche to let them know about your theme or plugin
- Inform your email list if you have one
- Add a link to your email signature to turn every message into an advertisement

Comment Like There's No Tomorrow

- Find relevant blog posts and leave (non-spammy) comments to spread the word
- Search for "how to [whatever you plugin does]", set up a Google alert for key phrases

Social Media

- Make sure to send regular news of your WordPress product through all channels
- Add relevant hashtags (e.g. #WordPress) to your social media posts to increase interactions
- Put a link and short description of your product in your social profiles
- Follow and inform influencers, join conversations, try to be helpful without selling too hard



