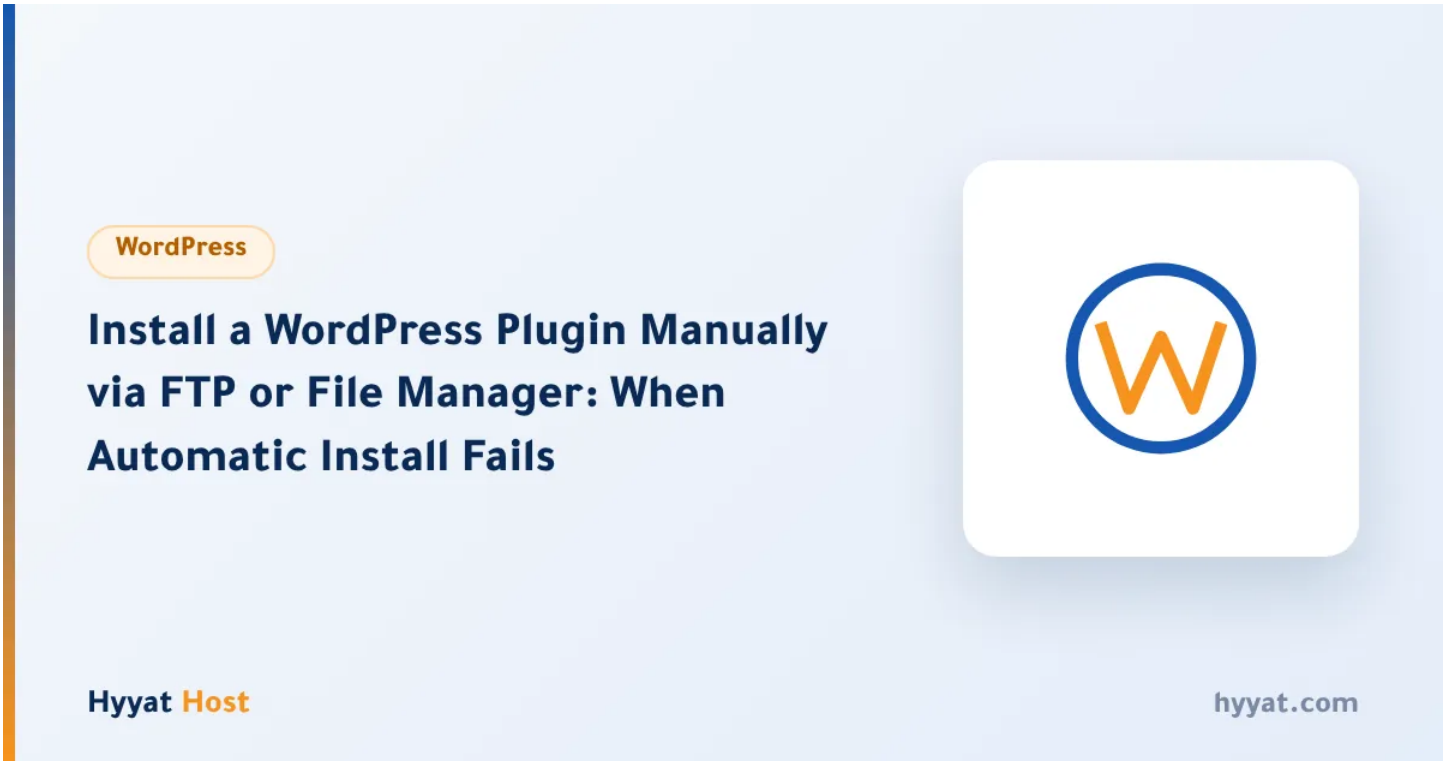
# Install a WordPress Plugin Manually via FTP or File Manager: When Automatic Install Fails

WordPress Guides · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/install-wordpress-plugin-manually-ftp/

**In short**If installing a plugin from Add New fails, download its zip file from WordPress.org or the developer's site, then try in order: **Upload Plugin** in the WordPress dashboard, or unzip it and upload its folder to `wp-content/plugins` via **FTP** or the cPanel **File Manager**. Then activate it on the Plugins page.




WordPress lets you install plugins with one click from Plugins, then Add New. Sometimes the install fails, because of file permissions, file size, a connection timeout, or because the plugin is a paid one not in the WordPress repository. In that case you upload it manually.




## Method 1: the Upload Plugin button

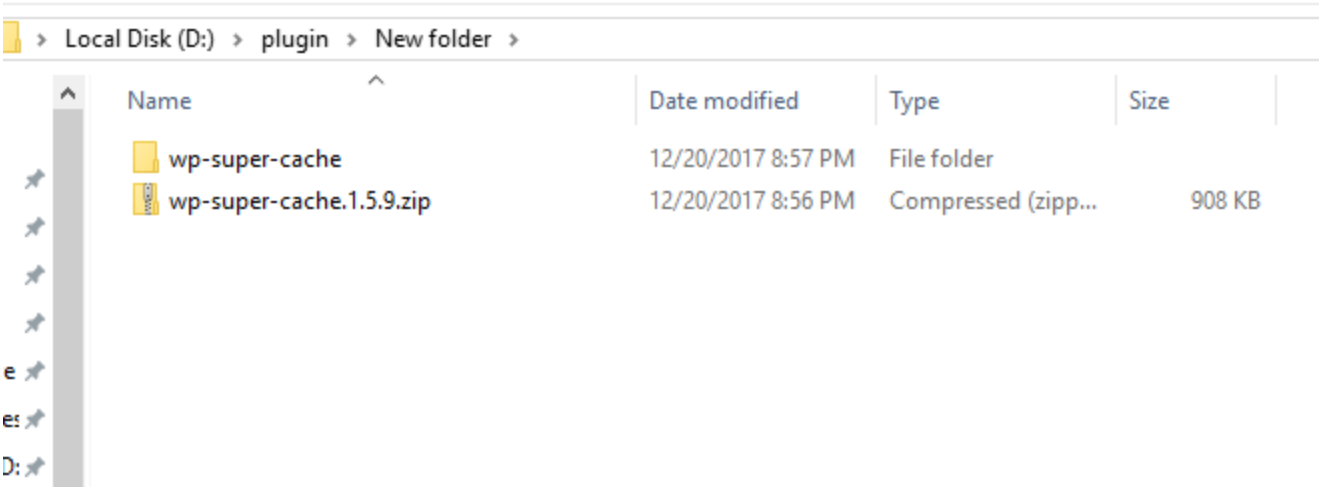
1. **Download the plugin zip file** from WordPress.org or your account on the developer's site.
2. **Open Plugins, then Add New,** and click **Upload Plugin** at the top.
3. **Choose the zip file** and click **Install Now**, then **Activate Plugin**.



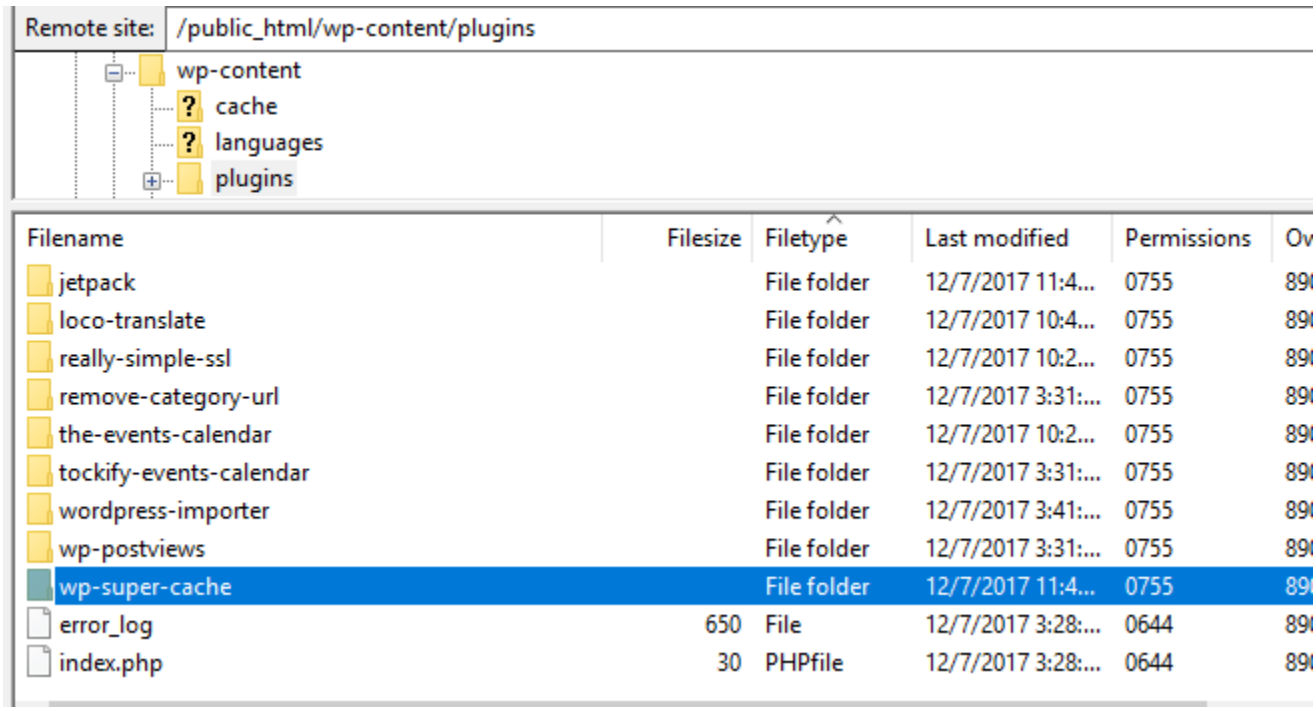

If you get an error such as the file exceeding the upload size, or the upload fails, use method 2 or 3.

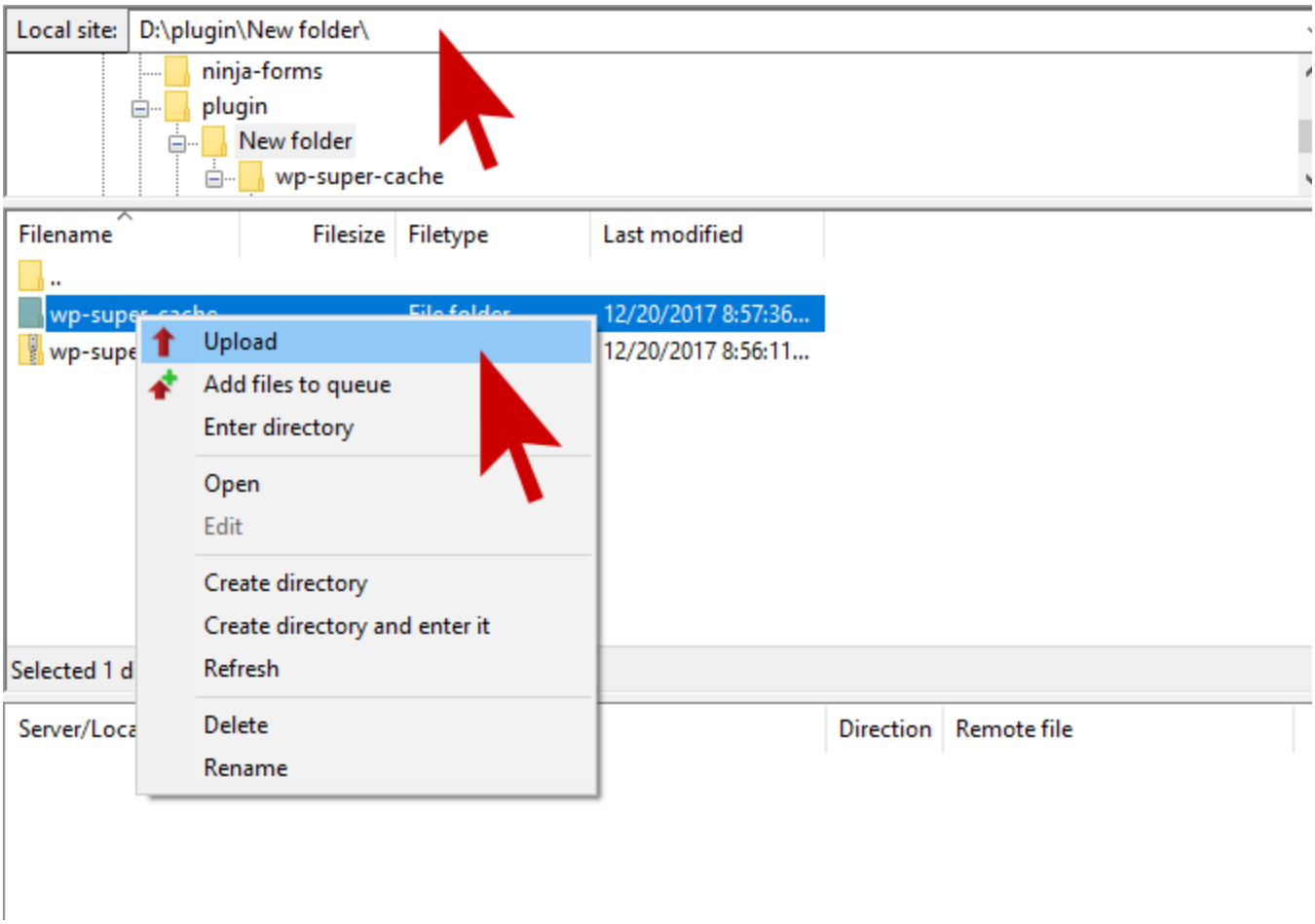
## Method 2: via FTP

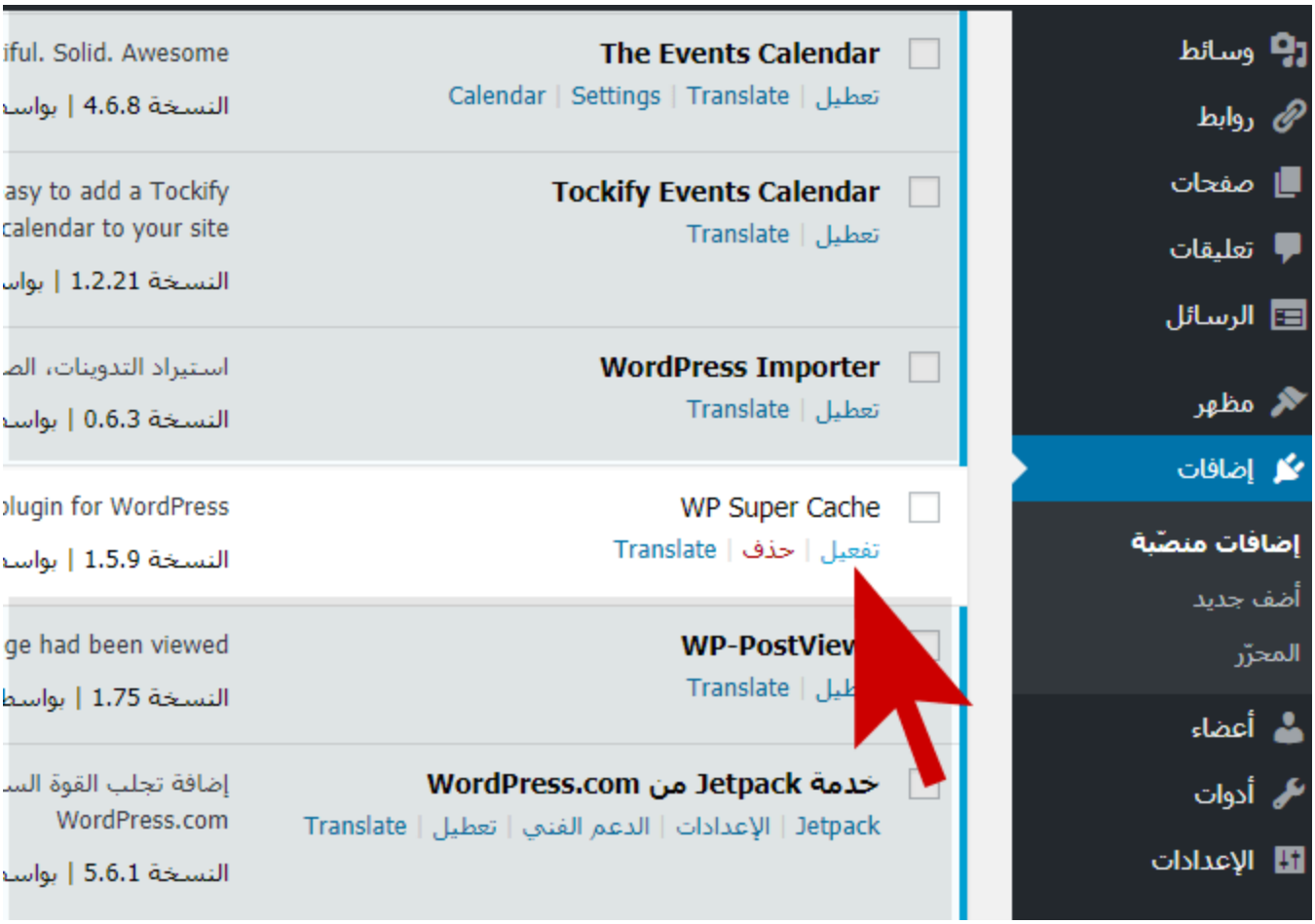
1. **Unzip the plugin** on your computer, which gives you a folder named after the plugin.
2. **Connect to your site with an FTP client** such as FileZilla, using the FTP details in your hosting activation email or the client area.
3. **Open the folder** `public_html/wp-content/plugins`, which has a folder for each installed plugin.
4. **Upload the plugin folder.** On the Local side, right-click the folder and choose **Upload**.
5. **Activate the plugin** from the WordPress dashboard, under Plugins.


Local Disk (D:) › plugin › New folder ›
Name
Date modified
Type
Size
wp-super-cache
12/20/2017 8:57 PM
File folder
wp-super-cache.1.5.9.zip
12/20/2017 8:56 PM
Compressed (zipp...
908 KB


FileZilla
File Edit View Transfer Server Bookmarks Help
Host:
Username:
Password:
Port: 21
Quickconnect


Remote site: /public_html/wp-content/plugins
wp-content
cache
languages
plugins
Filename
Filesize
Filetype
Last modified
Permissions
jetpack File folder 12/7/2017 11:4... 0755
loco-translate File folder 12/7/2017 10:4... 0755
really-simple-ssl File folder 12/7/2017 10:2... 0755
remove-category-url File folder 12/7/2017 3:31:... 0755
the-events-calendar File folder 12/7/2017 10:2... 0755
tockify-events-calendar File folder 12/7/2017 3:31:... 0755
wordpress-importer File folder 12/7/2017 3:41:... 0755
wp-postviews File folder 12/7/2017 3:31:... 0755
wp-super-cache File folder 12/7/2017 11:4... 0755
error_log 650 File 12/7/2017 3:28:... 0644
index.php 30 PHPfile 12/7/2017 3:28:... 0644


Local site: D:\plugin\New folder\
ninja-forms
plugin
New folder
wp-super-cache
Filename
Filesize
Filetype
Last modified
..
12/20/2017 8:57:36...
12/20/2017 8:56:11...
Upload
Add files to queue
Enter directory
Open
Edit
Create directory
Create directory and enter it
Refresh
Delete
Rename
Selected 1 d
Server/Loca
Direction
Remote file




## Method 3: the cPanel File Manager

Without an FTP client: open cPanel, then **File Manager**, go to `public_html/wp-content/plugins`, click **Upload** and upload the zip file, then right-click it and choose **Extract**. Delete the zip file afterwards and activate the plugin in WordPress.

## Common errors

| Problem | Fix |
| --- | --- |
| You uploaded the folder but the plugin does not appear | Make sure the files sit directly inside one folder, not a folder inside a folder of the same name. |
| "The package could not be installed" | The uploaded file is not a plugin; you may have uploaded a theme or a zip with other files. |
| The site breaks after activation | Rename the plugin folder via FTP to disable it and bring the site back. |

**Careful:** do not install "free" copies of paid plugins from unofficial sites. Most are modified and carry malware. Read how to choose a safe WordPress plugin.

## Summary

- Try Upload Plugin first.
- If it fails, upload the folder to wp-content/plugins via FTP or File Manager.
- Only download plugins from their official sources.

Want hosting tuned for WordPress? See WordPress Hosting.

## Frequently asked questions

Where do plugin files go when uploading manually?
In `wp-content/plugins` inside your site folder, each plugin in its own folder.

Do I upload the zip file or the folder?
Via FTP, upload the unzipped folder. With Upload Plugin or File Manager, upload the zip file.

Why does automatic install fail?
Usually file permissions, file size, a connection timeout, or a paid plugin that is not in the repository.

**Related guides**

- How to Install WordPress Plugins: 3 Methods Step by Step
- How to Update a WordPress Plugin Manually via FTP
- How to Choose a Safe WordPress Plugin or Theme Before Installing It: 8 Checks
- How to Update WordPress and Plugins Safely Without Breaking Your Site

All guides in this section →

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