CYPHER QA

WordPress Release QA Checklist

A practical pre-release checklist for WordPress and business websites. Run through it before every deploy — and again after.

01 Content & CMS

- [ ] All new and edited content renders correctly on the live site
- [ ] Drafts, scheduled posts, and revisions are not publicly visible
- [ ] Media (images, PDFs) loads and alt text is present
- [ ] Menus, widgets, and sidebars reflect the intended changes
- [ ] No placeholder or lorem-ipsum text remains

02 Forms & Email

- [ ] Every form submits successfully and shows a confirmation
- [ ] Notification emails arrive — check spam and the correct inbox
- [ ] Required-field validation and error messages work
- [ ] File uploads (if any) accept the right types and sizes
- [ ] No duplicate or missing submissions

03 Links & Navigation

- [ ] No broken internal links (run a crawl)
- [ ] External links open correctly and use the right target
- [ ] Redirects (301/302) resolve to the intended destination
- [ ] The 404 page is branded and helpful
- [ ] Anchor links and in-page navigation land correctly

04 Responsive & Cross-Browser

- [ ] Layout holds at mobile, tablet, and desktop widths
- [ ] No horizontal scroll or overlapping elements
- [ ] Tap targets are large enough on touch devices
- [ ] Tested in Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and Edge
- [ ] Sticky headers and footers behave on small screens

05 Performance & Caching

- [ ] Pages load within an acceptable time on a cold cache
- [ ] Caching and CDN are purged after deploy
- [ ] Images are compressed and correctly sized
- [ ] No render-blocking assets or console errors
- [ ] Core Web Vitals are within target (LCP, CLS, INP)

06 SEO & Metadata

- [ ] Titles and meta descriptions are unique and accurate
- [ ] Canonical URLs are correct — no duplicate content
- [ ] The XML sitemap is updated and submitted
- [ ] robots.txt allows the right pages
- [ ] Open Graph and social preview images render

07 Security & Access

- [ ] HTTPS is enforced and there is no mixed content
- [ ] Admin and editor roles have the correct permissions
- [ ] No debug output, stack traces, or exposed credentials
- [ ] Backups ran before the release
- [ ] Plugin, theme, and core updates are applied and tested

08 Post-Release Verification

- [ ] Smoke-test the critical user journeys
- [ ] Confirm analytics and tracking fire
- [ ] Monitor error logs for the first hour
- [ ] Verify the rollback plan is ready
- [ ] Record what shipped and what to watch

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Need this run for you? Cypher QA tests WordPress and web releases — with public proof of the work.