SHOPIFY PRODUCT DATA

Shopify CSV preflight checklist

Use this before a supplier catalog reaches Shopify. The point is not to force every file into shape - it is to find the decisions that need an owner before a live import.

01 Protect the source

Keep the original supplier file untouched. Record the supplier, export date, expected row count, and file encoding. Preserve leading-zero identifiers.

02 Confirm product identity

Identify the product handle or agreed grouping rule. Keep source SKUs, UPCs, and other identifiers as supplied. Flag blanks, duplicates, and conflicts.

03 Check required data

Map titles, vendors, product types, and publish settings. Do not invent missing prices, attributes, inventory, or SKUs.

04 Review variants

Check option names and values for every variant group. Find duplicate option combinations and confirm the parent product to variant relationship.

05 Validate commercial values

Keep prices and inventory unchanged unless an agreed transformation says otherwise. Flag text in number fields and unexpected negative values.

06 Review media and import safety

Check image URLs and product association. Confirm Shopify-compatible headers and test a small import before a live catalog update.

What a safe handoff looks like

A clean import is more than a file that uploads without an error. It makes every mapped field traceable, keeps source values intact, and separates unresolved business decisions from formatting work.

1

Keep a review trail

Save the original file, the corrected Shopify CSV, a row-level change report, and an unresolved-issues report together.

2

Make decisions visible

If a source file has missing or ambiguous data, pause and ask the product owner. Do not make up a value to satisfy an import field.

3

Test before live changes

Use a small test import to check products, variants, prices, inventory, and images before replacing a live catalog.

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