Advance Category Page

for Magento 2

Module & User Documentation



Version 1.0.3

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Module code: Magexweb_Advancecategory

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1. Overview

Advance Category Page is a Magento 2 extension developed by Magexweb that gives store owners full control over how product categories are displayed across the storefront. It replaces Magento's default, largely static category browsing experience with a configurable, SEO-friendly category catalogue, adds a dedicated Categories landing page, enriches the native category page with a subcategory showcase, and ships three ready-to-use widgets (Grid, List, and Slider) that can be dropped into any CMS page, block, or layout via the standard Magento widget system.

The module is aimed at merchants with medium-to-large category trees (fashion, home goods, multi-brand marketplaces, B2B catalogs) who want visual, image-led category navigation without hiring a developer for every layout change.

1.1 Key Features

- Dedicated “All Categories” landing page with a merchant-defined URL, title, meta title/description, and rich-text top/bottom descriptions
- Three interchangeable display layouts: Grid, List, and Slider (carousel), selectable independently for the categories page, the subcategory section, and any widget instance
- Subcategory showcase automatically injected into the native Magento category view page (grid/list/slider), configurable per store view
- Dedicated Thumbnail Image field added to the category edit form (separate from Magento's native Category Image), with its own uploader and storage path
- Widget system integration — three CMS widgets (Grid/List/Slider) that content editors can place on any CMS page or block through the WYSIWYG “Insert Widget” button
- Fine-grained per-instance controls: parent category, sort order (name / ID / position), category exclusion list, category count limit, column count, product-count badge, child-category toggle, description/summary with configurable character length, and empty-category hiding
- Slider layout built on Owl Carousel with configurable loop, arrows, dots, autoplay, autoplay speed, and four responsive breakpoints (0 / 567 / 767 / 1023 px)
- Global module enable/disable switch and full store-view-level scoping for every setting
- Custom category list route registered through Magento's router pipeline, so the categories page works like any native CMS/catalog URL and respects the configured URL key

1.2 How It Works (Technical Summary)

The module is a standard Magento 2 component (Magexweb_Advancecategory) using the composer type magento2-module and PSR-4 autoloading. It contributes:

- A custom Router (Controller/Router.php) that intercepts the configured URL and forwards the request to a dedicated Index controller, rendering the categories landing page
- A CategoryPageSubcategory content block injected into the native catalog_category_view layout to render the subcategory grid/list/slider under the category description
- Three Widget blocks (Gridlayout, Listlayout, Sliderlayout) registered in etc/widget.xml for use anywhere Magento widgets are supported
- A preference on Magento\Catalog\Model\Category\DataProvider to expose the extra Thumbnail Image field on the admin category edit form, plus a dedicated upload controller and a virtual type for image validation/storage
- A System Configuration section (Stores > Configuration > Magexweb Settings > Advance Category Configuration) covering General, Category List, Category Page, and Category Widget groups

2. Requirements & Compatibility

Item	Detail
Platform	Magento Open Source / Adobe Commerce 2.x
PHP	Compatible with the PHP version(s) supported by your Magento version (verify against composer.json / module.xml constraints before deploying to production)
Dependencies	Magento_Catalog, Magento_Widget, Magento_Cms, Magento_Config, Magento_Backend
Frontend libraries	Owl Carousel (bundled) for the Slider layout
License	GPL-3.0-or-later
Module code	Magexweb_Advancecategory
Current version	1.0.4

3. Installation

3.1 Composer Installation (Recommended)

1. Place the extension in your project (via private Composer repository, packagist, or by copying it under app/code).

2. From the Magento root, run the following commands:

Command	Purpose
composer require magexweb/advancecategory	Only if distributed via a Composer repository
php bin/magento module:enable Magexweb_Advancecategory	Registers and enables the module
php bin/magento setup:upgrade	Runs the module's data patch (adds the Thumbnail Image attribute) and schema updates
php bin/magento setup:di:compile	Recommended for production mode
php bin/magento setup:static-content:deploy -f	Required in production mode
php bin/magento cache:flush	Clears Magento cache

3.2 Manual (ZIP) Installation

- Copy the Advancecategory folder to app/code/Magexweb/Advancecategory in your Magento installation
- Run the same bin/magento commands listed in section 3.1 (module:enable, setup:upgrade, di:compile, static-content:deploy, cache:flush)
- Verify the module is active: php bin/magento module:status Magexweb_Advancecategory

3.3 Post-Installation Checklist

- Go to Stores > Configuration > Magexweb Settings > Advance Category Configuration and confirm the section is visible
- Set Module Enable to “Yes” under General Configuration
- Configure the Categories landing page URL key and title
- Open any category in Catalog > Categories and confirm the new Thumbnail Image field appears in the Content section
- Visit the configured category list URL on the storefront to confirm the page renders

4. Admin Configuration Guide

All settings live under Stores > Settings > Configuration > Magexweb Settings > Advance Category Configuration.

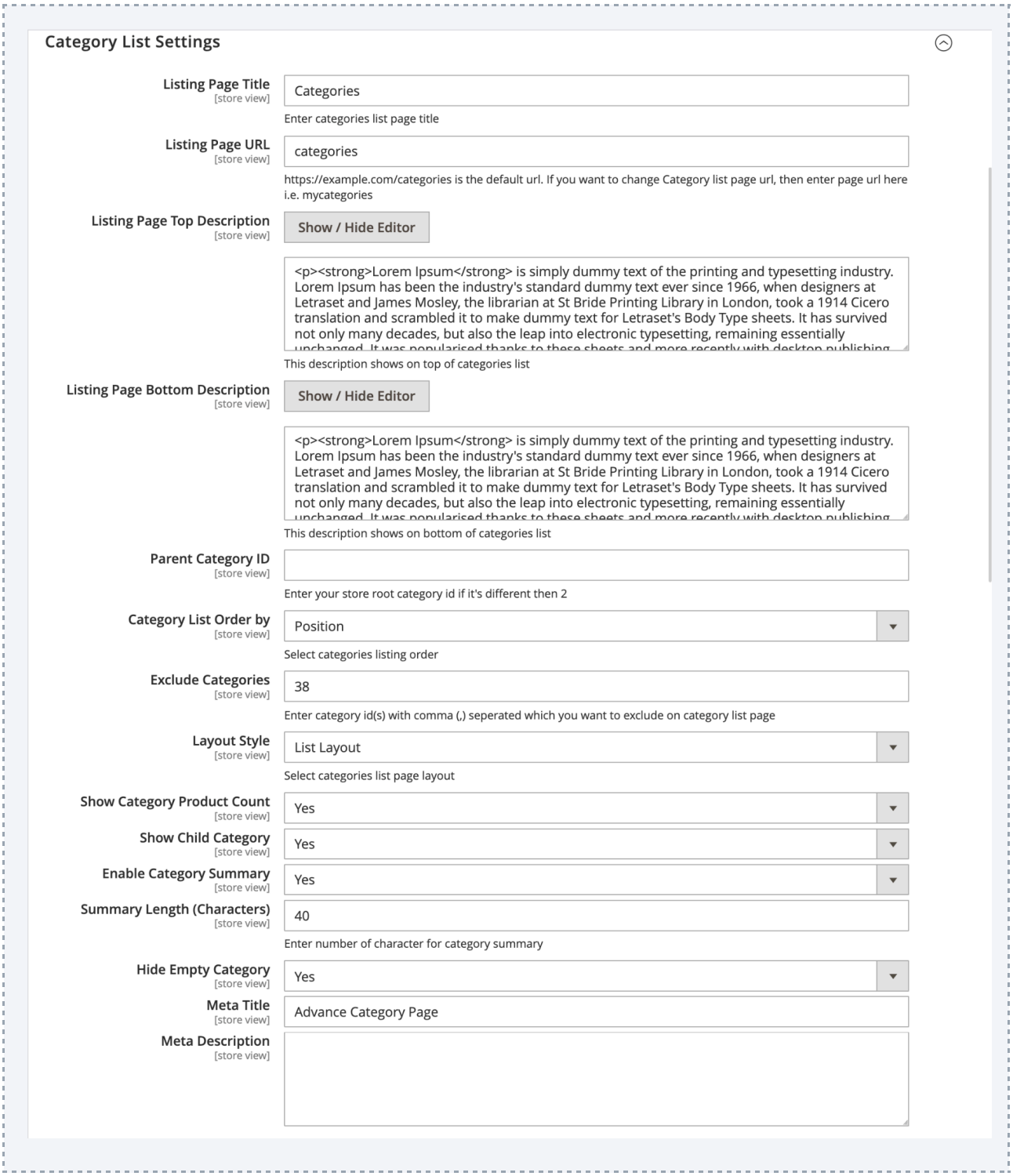
4.1 General Configuration



Field	Description
Module Enable	Master switch for the entire extension, including the custom router, subcategory block, and widgets

4.2 Category List Settings

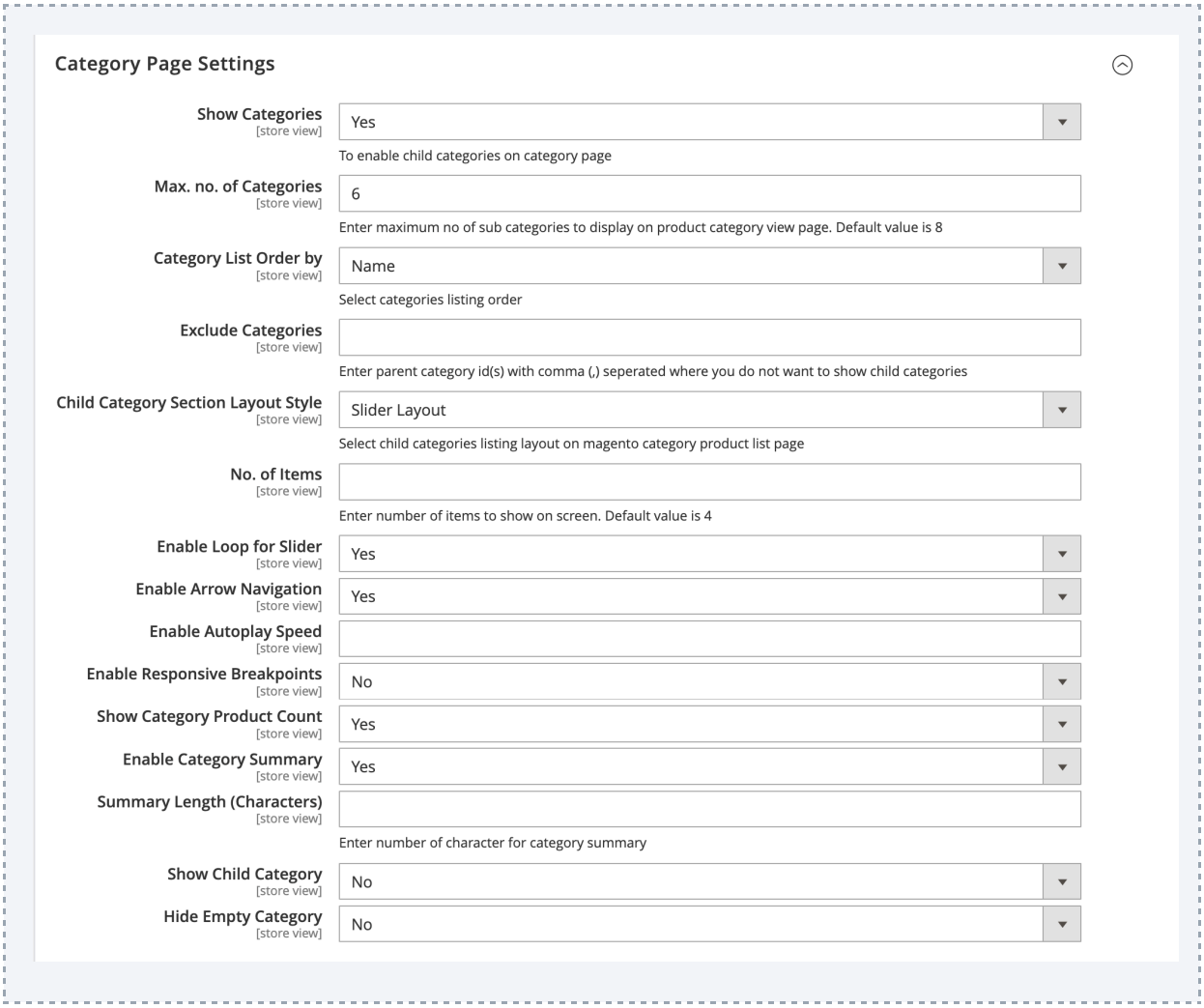
Controls the standalone “All Categories” landing page created by the module.



Field	Description
Listing Page Title	Title shown on the categories landing page
Listing Page URL	URL key for the landing page (default: categories)
Listing Page Top Description	WYSIWYG content rendered above the category list
Listing Page Bottom Description	WYSIWYG content rendered below the category list
Parent Category ID	Root category whose children populate the list (defaults to store root, typically ID 2)
Category List Order by	Name / ID / Position
Exclude Categories	Comma-separated category IDs to omit
Layout Style	Grid / List / Slider
No. of Columns	Grid columns per row (visible only when Layout Style = Grid)
Show Category Product Count	Displays the product count badge per category
Show Child Category	Shows nested child categories in the listing
Enable Category Summary	Toggles the short description snippet per category
Summary Length (Characters)	Character limit for the summary text
Hide Empty Category	Hides categories with zero assigned products
Meta Title / Meta Description	SEO metadata for the landing page

4.3 Category Page Settings

Controls the subcategory showcase injected into Magento's native category view page (e.g., shown above or below the product listing on a parent category).

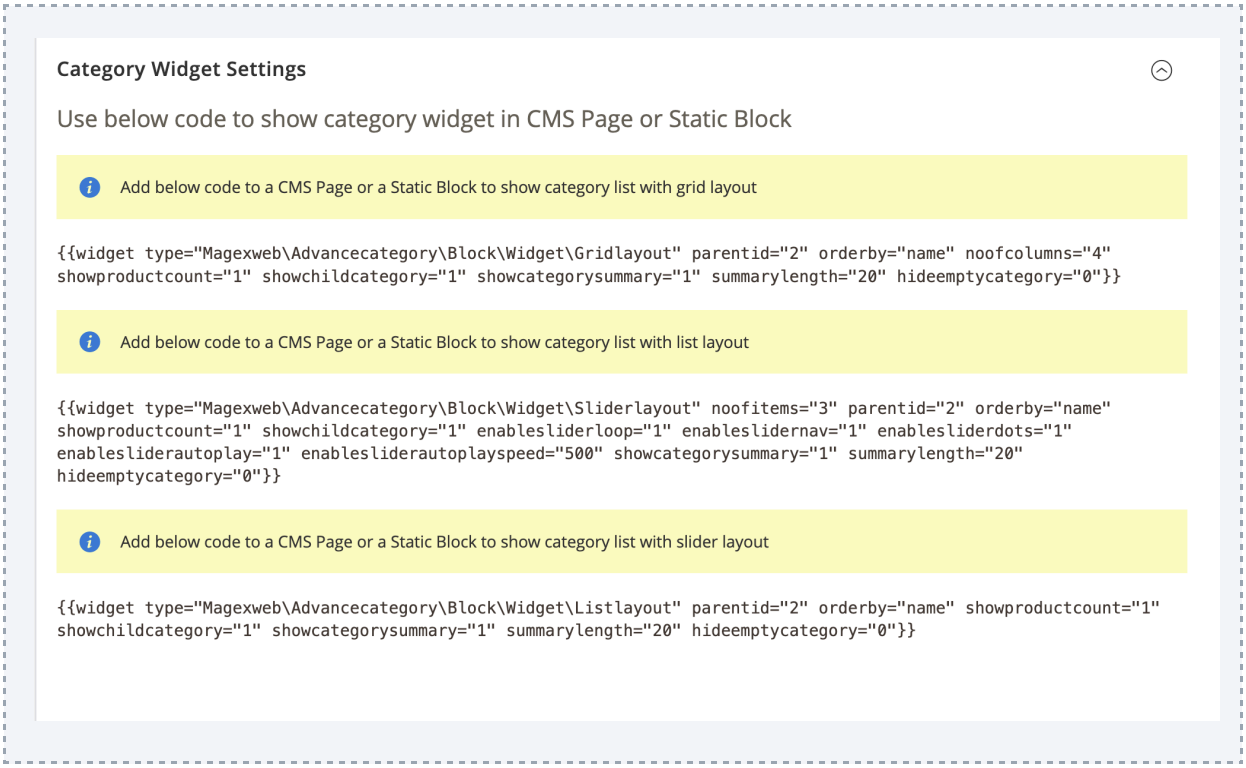


Field	Description
Show Categories	Enables/disables the subcategory block on the category view page
Max. no. of Categories	Maximum subcategories to display (default 8)
Category List Order by	Name / ID / Position

Field	Description
Exclude Categories	Parent category IDs for which the subcategory block should not render
Child Category Section Layout Style	Grid / List / Slider
No. of Columns	Grid columns per row (Grid layout only)
No. of Items / Loop / Nav / Dots / Autoplay / Autoplay Speed	Slider-specific controls (Slider layout only)
Enable Responsive Breakpoints + per-breakpoint item counts (1023 / 767 / 567 / 0 px)	Responsive item counts for the slider
Show Category Product Count	Displays the product count badge per subcategory
Enable Category Summary + Summary Length	Short description snippet and character limit
Show Child Category	Shows nested grandchild categories
Hide Empty Category	Hides subcategories with zero assigned products

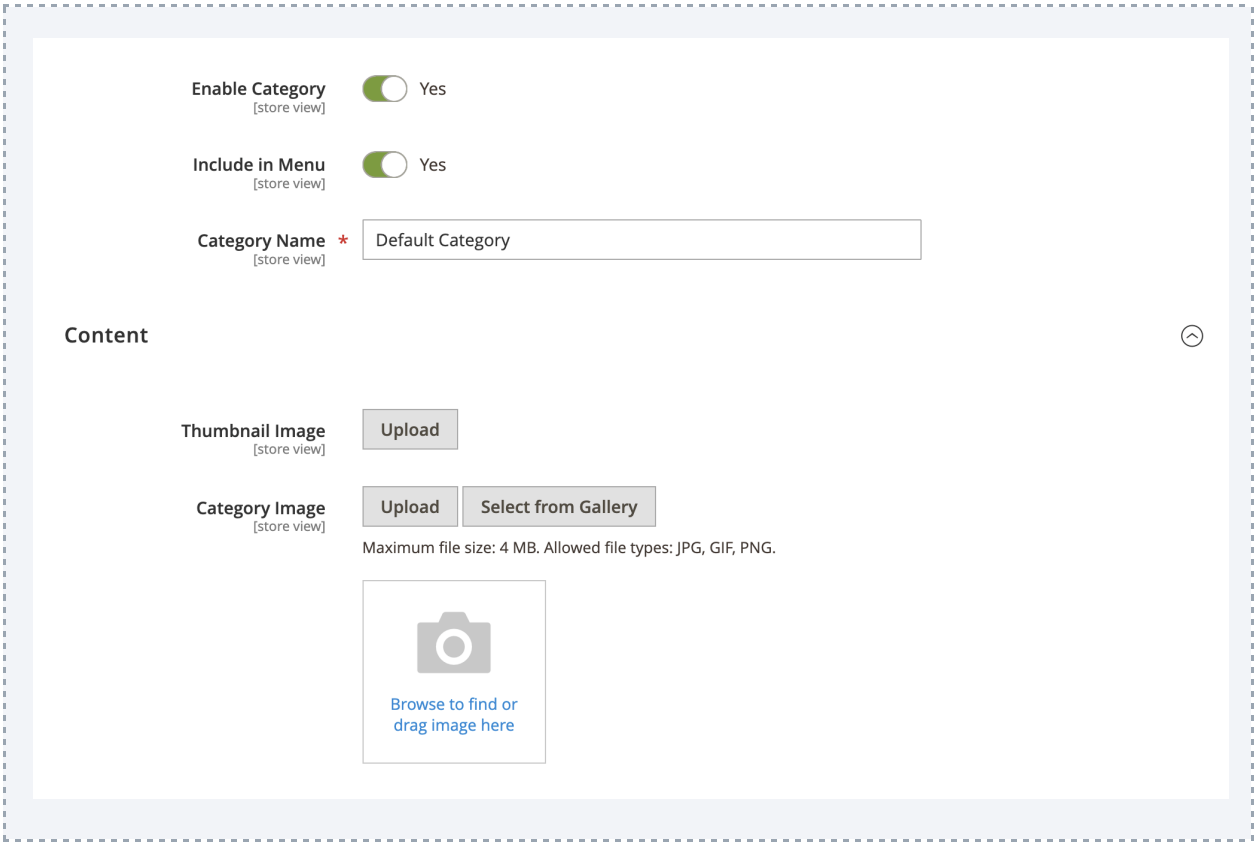
4.4 Category Widget Settings

This group displays read-only reference information/instructions for using the three category widgets in the WYSIWYG editor (see Section 5); it does not itself store settings.



4.5 Category Thumbnail Image

The module adds a Thumbnail Image field to Catalog > Categories > [Category] > Content, alongside Magento's native Category Image. This lets merchants use a differently cropped/optimized image specifically for grid, list, and slider thumbnails without affecting the main category banner image used elsewhere in the theme.

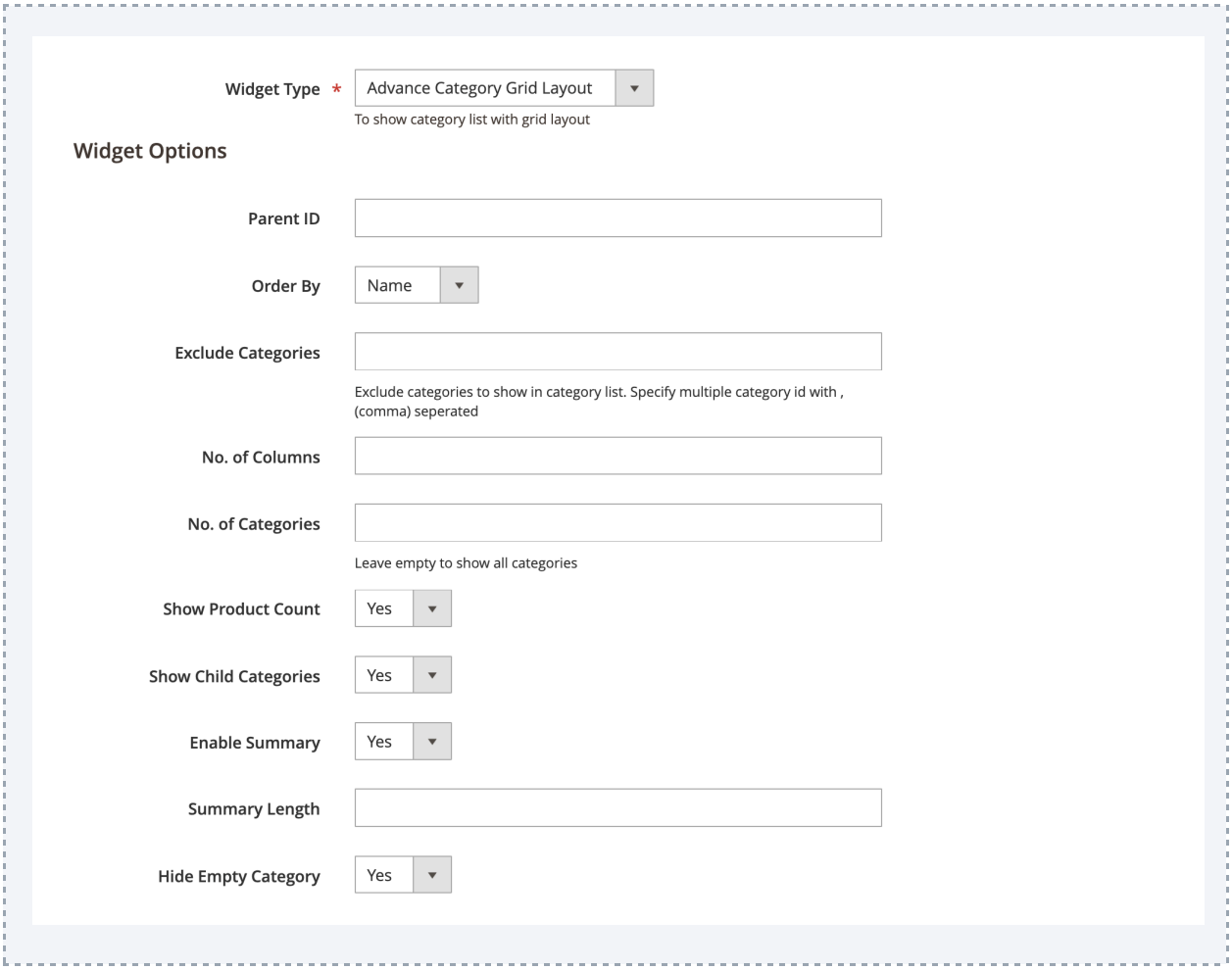


5. Frontend Widgets

Three widgets are available from any WYSIWYG editor's Insert Widget button (CMS pages, CMS blocks, static blocks used in layout XML, etc.). Each widget's parameters override the corresponding global default from Section 4 for that specific placement.

5.1 Advance Category Grid Layout

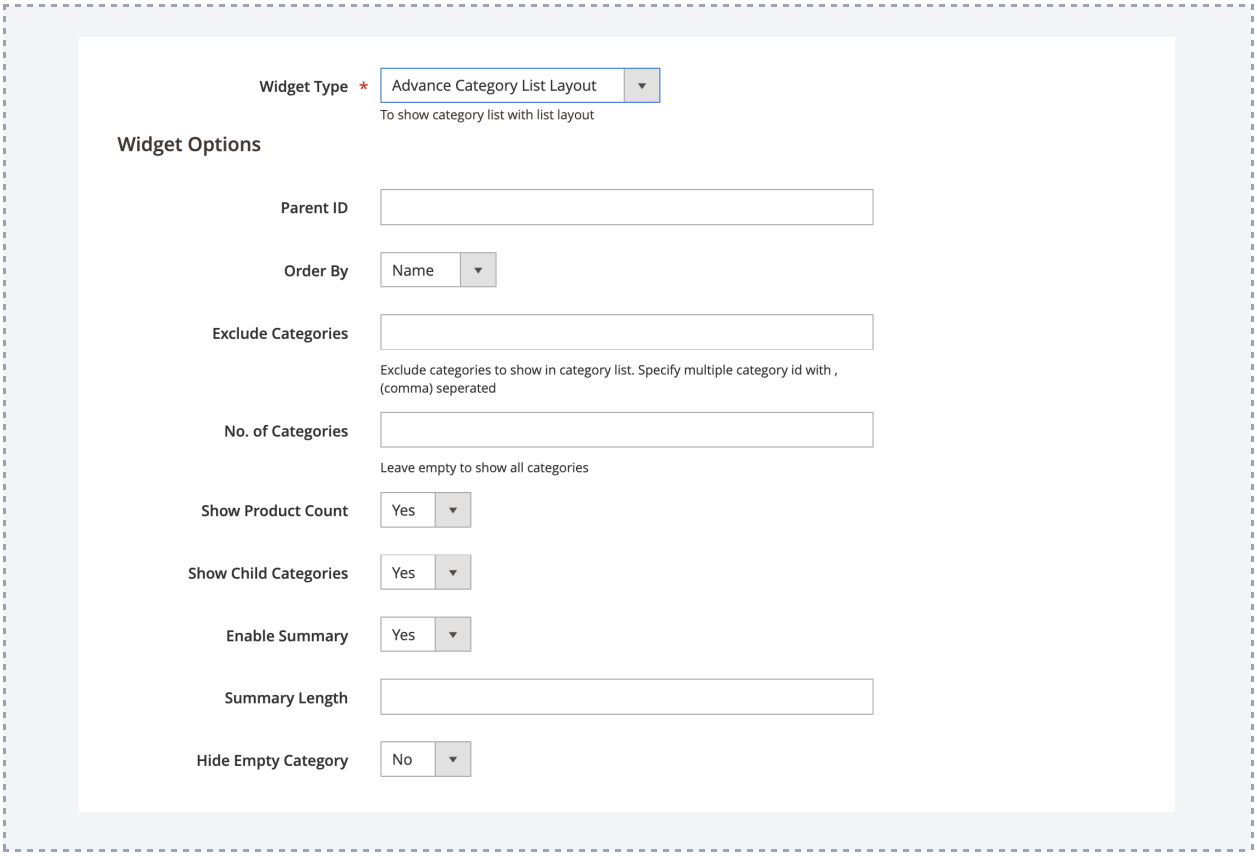
Renders categories as a responsive image grid.



Parameter	Description
Parent ID	Category ID whose children should be listed
Order By	Name / ID / Position
Exclude Categories	Comma-separated category IDs to skip
No. of Columns	Columns per row
No. of Categories	Limit on categories shown (blank = all)
Show Product Count	Yes/No
Show Child Categories	Yes/No
Enable Summary	Yes/No
Summary Length	Character limit
Hide Empty Category	Yes/No

5.2 Advance Category List Layout

Renders categories as a vertical list with image, title, product count, and optional summary.



Parameter	Description
Parent ID	Category ID whose children should be listed
Order By	Name / ID / Position
Exclude Categories	Comma-separated category IDs to skip
No. of Categories	Limit on categories shown (blank = all)
Show Product Count	Yes/No
Show Child Categories	Yes/No
Enable Summary	Yes/No
Summary Length	Character limit
Hide Empty Category	Yes/No

5.3 Advance Category Slider Layout

Renders categories as an Owl-Carousel-powered slider with full responsive and autoplay control.



Parameter	Description
No. of Items	Default items visible per slide

Parameter	Description
Parent ID	Category ID whose children should be listed
Order By	Name / ID / Position
Exclude Categories	Comma-separated category IDs to skip
No. of Categories	Limit on categories shown (blank = all)
Show Product Count / Show Child Categories / Enable Summary / Summary Length / Hide Empty Category	Same as Grid/List widgets
Enable Slider Loop / Navigation / Dots / Autoplay / Autoplay Speed	Carousel behavior toggles
No. of Items @ 0 / 567 / 767 / 1023 px	Responsive breakpoint item counts

6. Uninstallation

- php bin/magento module:disable Magexweb_Advancecategory
- Remove the module files (composer remove magexweb/advancecategory, or delete app/code/Magexweb/Advancecategory)
- php bin/magento setup:upgrade && php bin/magento cache:flush

> *Note: Uninstalling does not automatically remove the category_thumbnail_image attribute or previously uploaded thumbnail images; review Catalog > Attributes and the media storage before a full cleanup if required.*

7. Troubleshooting & FAQ

The Categories landing page returns a 404

- Confirm Module Enable = Yes under General Configuration
- Confirm the Listing Page URL does not collide with an existing CMS page or catalog URL rewrite
- Flush cache and re-check under Stores > Configuration

Slider does not render / arrows and dots missing

- Confirm requirejs-config.js is deployed (run setup:static-content:deploy again after any theme change)
- Check the browser console for a JavaScript conflict with another Owl Carousel version bundled by a different extension or theme

Thumbnail Image field is missing on the category edit page

- Re-run setup:upgrade to ensure the data patch that adds the attribute has executed
- Clear the generated/ and var/cache/ directories and re-check in production mode after di:compile8. Support & Changelog

Item	Detail
Vendor	Magexweb
Support email	info@magexweb.com
Website	https://www.magexweb.com
Current version	1.0.3

Version	Notes
1.0.3	Current release covered by this document
1.0.x	Add prior release notes here