

Home & Garden Top 60 Ecommerce Report

2021 Magento Edition



Home & Garden Top 60 Ecommerce Report

A benchmark report of 60 Home & Garden ecommerce retailers

This report was created by Fluid Commerce, an ecommerce growth agency working with ambitious retailers to build and grow successful ecommerce stores.

All research was conducted in February 2021. Analysis and scoring was based on the researcher's judgement, but does relate to documented guidelines. Points were given generously. If a policy was unclear, no scoring point was awarded.

If you wish to use any of the data contained in this report, please credit the agency by citing 'Fluid Commerce' with a link to www.fluidcommerce.co.uk.



Adam Hindle

Managing Director - Fluid Commerce

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Welcome to the second edition of our annual Home & Garden report, a benchmark report analysing 60 of the sector's leading retailers. The aim of this report is to analyse the industry and identify key trends that other retailers can benchmark against.

This report provides readers with insights into which home and garden retailers are performing well at meeting the latest in best practice ecommerce guidelines. Retailers were marked against the following themes:

- Speed & Security
- Trust
- Navigation
- O Product Page
- O Checkout & Payment
- O Delivery & Returns
- Community

Inside, you will discover the top scorers, the top scorers by theme, plus best practice examples.

Covid 19 and Ecommerce

It would be remiss to not discuss the impact of Covid 19. The 2020 report was completed in January 2020, and the data for this report was collected in February 2021. This means our report not only gives a benchmark score, but also demonstrates how retailers have reacted since the pandemic began.

One indication of this is a few notable new entries to our top 20 who have leapt up dramatically from their 2020 ranking:

- O Rockett St George moved up from #71
- O Best4Flooring moved up from #45
- O Pimpernel moved up from #40
- O Charles Bentley moved up from #39

Nearly every brand featured in the top 20 has made improvements to their online store in the last twelve months, increasing their overall score. This shows the importance of continually investing in your ecommerce store if you want to stay at the top of your game.

It is hard to say for sure that the pandemic encouraged retailers to invest in their online stores, or whether these updates would have occurred anyway. However, it is clear that with brick and mortar stores unavailable for large chunks of the past twelve months, providing an enjoyable, intuitive and fast online shopping experience is now an essential part of a brand's retail offering.

We hope you find the Fluid Commerce Home & Garden Top 60 Report useful in discovering exemplary examples of ecommerce best practice. If you have any questions, our contact details are available on the back page of this report.

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Benchmarking

Average Score



The average 2021 score for all home & garden retailers in this report is **67 out of 100**

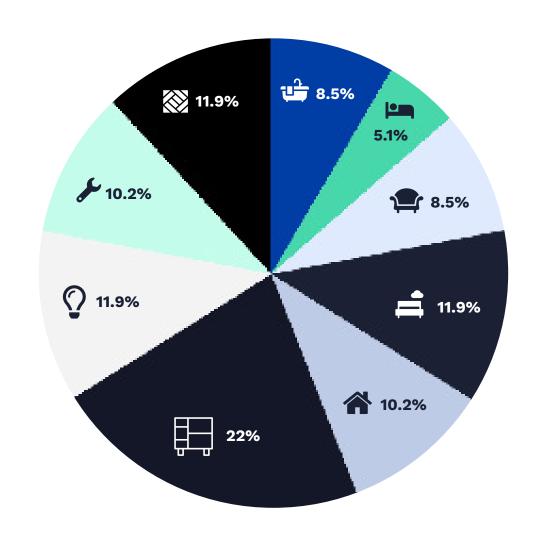
67/100

Average Score per Sector

	Lighting	70 /100
	Bedroom	69 /100
	Homewares	68 /100
	General	65 /100
A	Garden & Outdoors	64 /100
	Furniture	64 /100
1	Bathroom	62 /100
	Walls, Floors & Doors	62 /100
2	Tools & Trade	61 /100

Retailer Overview

We included a range of sub-verticals in this report to ensure a diverse yet fair representation of Home & Garden Magento retailers.



The Home & Garden Top 20 Retailers

Top 20 Retailers

	2021 Score 2020 Score	2021 Score	e 2020 Score
Big Bathroom Shop bigbathroomshop.co.uk	84 / ₁₀₀	Moda Furnishings modafurnishings.co.uk 78/100	67 /100
Soak&Sleep soakandsleep.com	80/100 68/100	DUSK Luxury bedding for less Dusk dusk.com 77/100	New Entry
Best4Flooring best4flooring.co.uk	79 / ₁₀₀ ↑ 60 / ₁₀₀	Tile Giant tilegiant.co.uk 75/100	68 /100
SimpleLighting Simple Lighting simplelighting.co.uk	78 / ₁₀₀ ↑ 73 / ₁₀₀	LampShopOnline LampShopOnline LampShoponline.com	1 65 /100
ICONIC Lights iconiclights.co.uk	78 / ₁₀₀ ↑ 75 / ₁₀₀	Silentnight silentnight.co.uk Silentnight	^ 64 /100

Top 20 Retailers

	2021 Score	2020 Score		2021 Score	2020 Score
ROCKETTSIGEORGE ROCKEttsigeorge.co.uk	74 / ₁₀₀	54 /100	MADE.COM® made.com	71 / ₁₀₀	New Entry
lancashire Lighting lancashire Lighting lancashirelighting.co.uk	72 / ₁₀₀	New Entry	ROSE & GREY Rose and Grey roseandgrey.co.uk	71 / ₁₀₀	↓ 74 /100
Charles Bentley charlesbentley.com	72 / ₁₀₀	61 /100	BIOCX Woodblocx.co.uk	70 /100	68 /100
Bean Bag Bazaar beanbagbazaar.co.uk	72 / ₁₀₀	New Entry	PIMPERNEL* Pimpernel pimpernelinternational.co.uk	70 /100	61 /100
ALLFINISHES AllFinishes allfinishes.co.uk	71 / ₁₀₀	New Entry	The Trench Bedroom Company frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk	70 /100	↑ 66 /100

Home & Garden Retailers

The Lower Rankings

Lower Rankings

	2021 Score	2020 Score
Robert Dyas	70 /100	74 /100
Wood Floor Warehouse	69 /100	New Entry
Lighting Direct	69 /100	New Entry
Notcutts	69 /100	61 /100
Great Furniture Trading Company	69 /100	New Entry
Dormeo	68 /100	New Entry
Bedeck	67 /100	71 /100
Cox & Cox	67 /100	68 /100
Dip & Doze	67 /100	4 69 /100
lampandlight.co.uk	67 /100	New Entry

	2021 Score	2020 Score
Heals	66 /100	New Entry
Christy	66 /100	60 /100
Jane Clayton & Company	66 /100	New Entry
Tom Dixon	64 /100	New Entry
C. P. Hart	64 /100	New Entry
Wood and Beyond	64 /100	66 /100
Trading Depot	64 /100	69 /100
Housing Units	64 /100	New Entry
Logspan	64 /100	New Entry
bathshop321	64 /100	New Entry

Lower Rankings

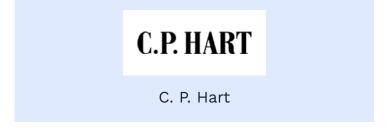
	2021 Score	2020 Score
TW Tool Superstore	63 /100	New Entry
The Conran Shop	63 /100	New Entry
Peter Nyssen	62 /100	61 /100
The Holding Company	62 /100	4 67 /100
Grazz 247	62 /100	New Entry
Builder Depot	61 /100	New Entry
Richard Haworth	61 /100	56 /100
Light Mirrors	60 /100	New Entry
MP Moran	60 /100	New Entry
Primrose	59 /100	New Entry

	2021 Score	2020 Score
House of Enki	57 /100	New Entry
BathroomsByDesign	57 /100	New Entry
Beds Are Uzzz	56 /100	New Entry
Cousins Furniture Stores	56 /100	53 /100
Luxsale	56 /100	New Entry
Porcelain Superstore	56 /100	53 /100
KayBee Doors	55 /100	58 /100
Bradfords Building Supplies	55 /100	New Entry
Scotsdales Garden	53 /100	New Entry
Craig & Rose	51 /100	New Entry

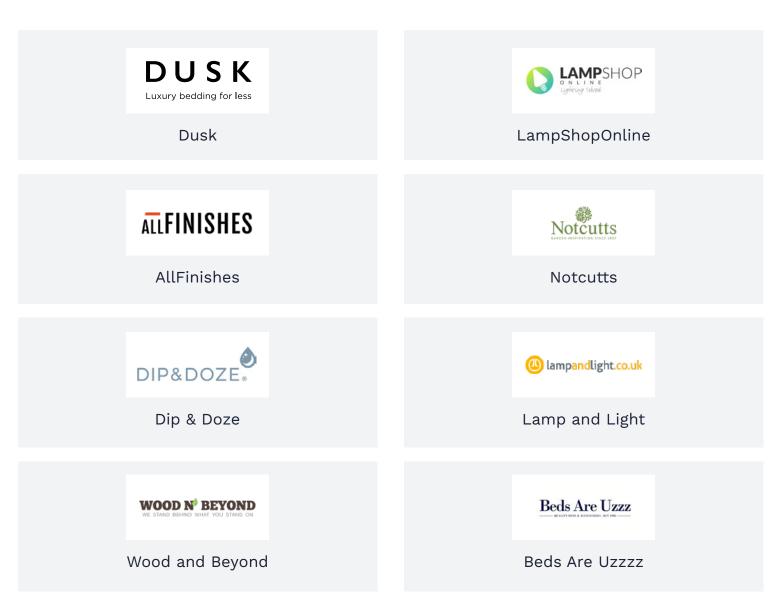
6 Speed & Security

Speed & Security: Top Brands

Speed Security







Speed

A fast site is one of those things that if it's there, you don't notice. But if your site is slow, then it can have serious repercussions. A site that takes too long to load will lead to frustrated users giving up and shopping elsewhere.

We measured retailers' site speed scores using Google PageSpeed Insights, which provides a score out of 100. Overall, the speed for Home & Garden retailers was slow, with mobile speed proving a particular issue. Just two stores scored highly, and C.P Hart and House of Enki should be delighted with their achievement.

31.7% of retailers scored over 50 Google PageSpeed Insights.

14-

AVERAGE MOBILE SPEED

/100

AVERAGE DESKTOP SPEED C.P. HART

C. P. Hart

33

/100

MOBILE SPEED

87

/100

DESKTOP SPEED

HOUSE OF ENKI®
BATHROOMS | KITCHENS | LIVING

House of Enki

35 /100

MOBILE SPEED

84

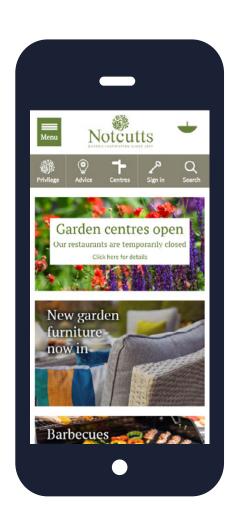
/100

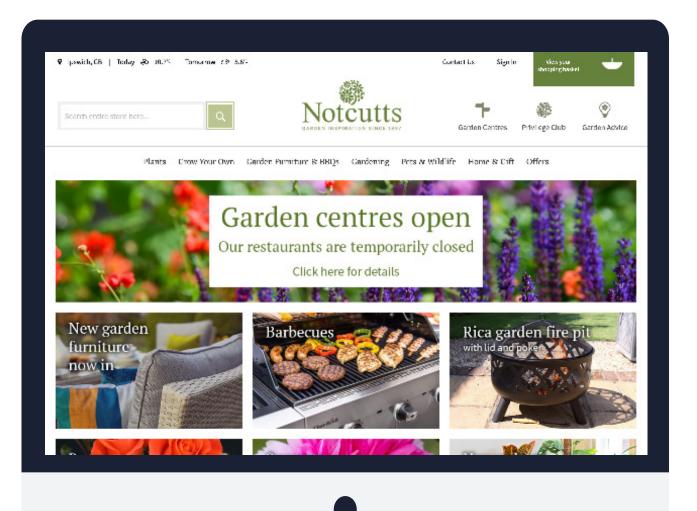
DESKTOP SPEED

Speed

Security is also an important factor to consider when optimising user experience. All of the retailers included in this report had invested in SSL certificates. Just 13.3% of home and garden retailers had EV (Extended Validation) SSL, the highest form of SSL certificate available.

Retailers with EV SSL include Dusk, LampShopOnline, AllFinishes, Notcutts, Dip & Doze, Lamp & Light, Wood and Beyond and Beds Are Uzzz.





Notcutts performed best overall for site speed and security, with an EV certificate and a desktop speed of **69.**

Trust

Trust: Top Brands



BIG BATHROOM SHOP

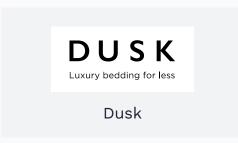
Big Bathroom Shop



Best 4
Flooring

Best4Flooring

CHARLES BENTLEY

































Trust

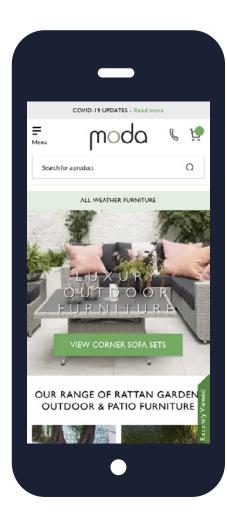
The mark of a good website is its trust factor - a UX element looked for, valued and ranked by Google. Customers look for and appreciate trust signals such as reviews and clear reassurance messaging. Both of these can help to encourage users along the sales funnel, taking them from the mentality of a casual shopper into becoming an active buyer.

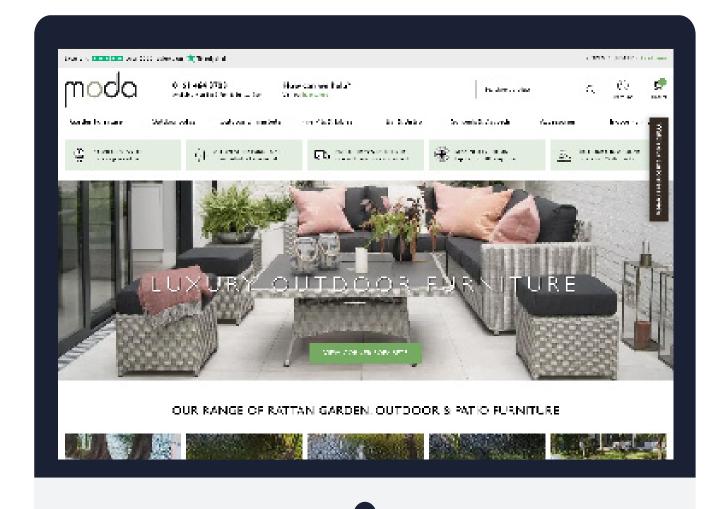
The importance of trust was understood by our Home & Garden retailers. The vast majority had some form of trust signalling: reviews on the home page, product-specific reviews on the product page or reassurance messaging on the homepage hero banner.

36.7% of our retailers included all three elements to score maximum points for Trust, including Big Bathroom Shop, Best4Flooring and Simple Lighting.

Excluding reviews and delivery information, great examples of reassurance messaging included:

- '7 Year Guarantee'
- 0 '60 day trial'
- 'UK's lowest prices'
- 'Award-winning designs'
- O 'Price-match promise'





Moda Furnishings delivers a great example of reassurance messaging on their homepage. They don't rely on their delivery and reviews to sell themselves to a customer, but demonstrate their unique selling points. Using USPs is a great way to provide trust signals and give customers a compelling reason to choose you over your competitors.

Trust

Review Tech

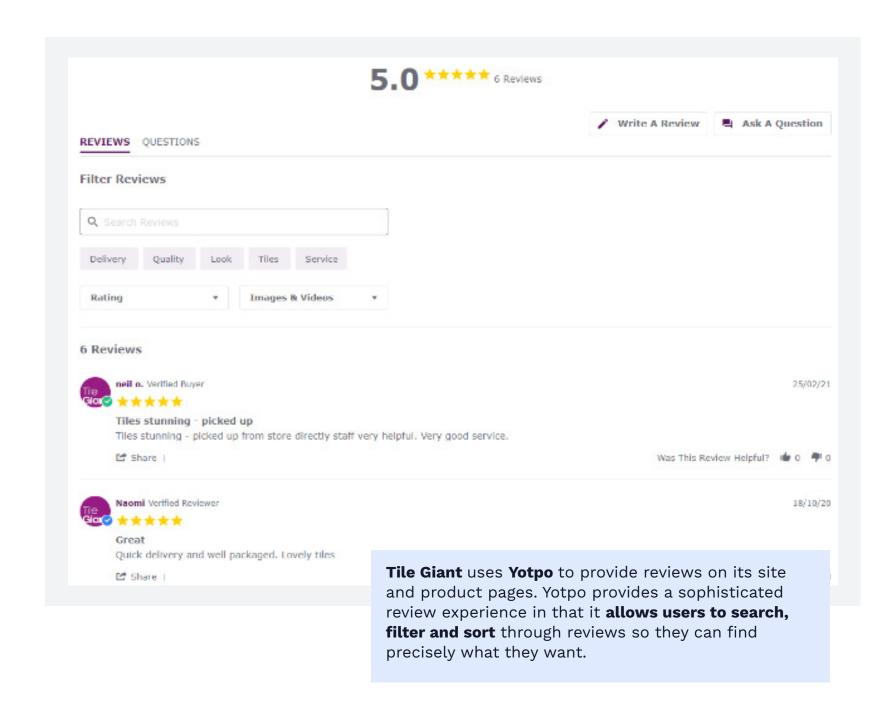
Trustpilot was the most popular review platform





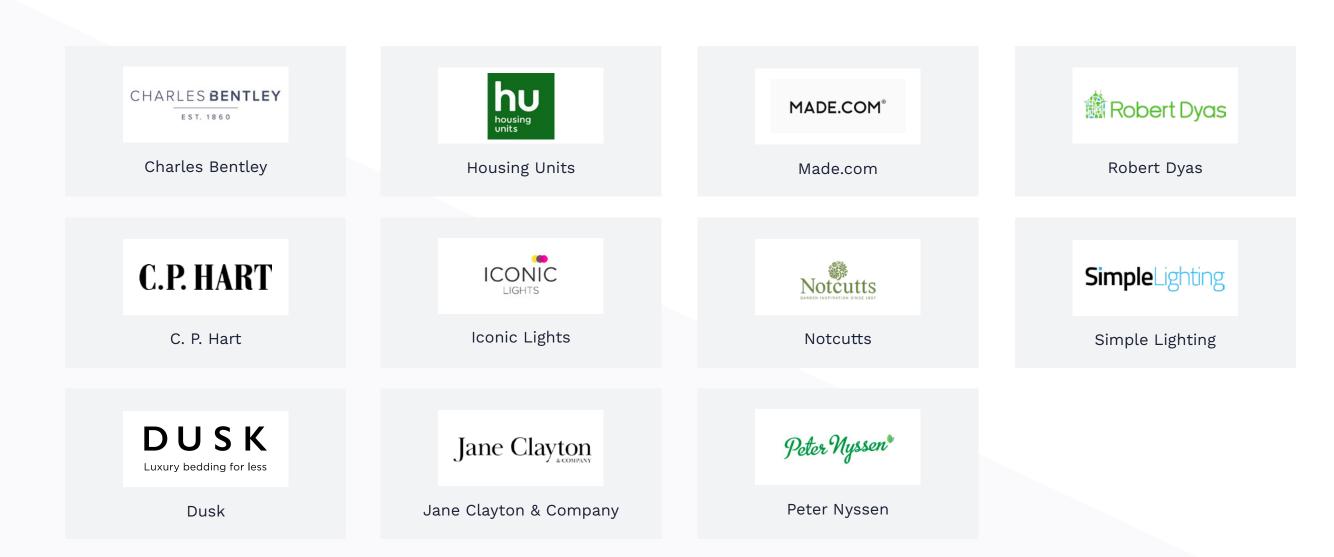






✓ Navigation

Navigation: Top Brands



Navigation

Being able to easily find your way around a website to discover the products that you want quickly is a fundamental part of UX. It is the ecommerce store's job to help customers find what they are looking for with the minimal amount of impediment - navigation must be intuitive, fast and helpful.

We scored brands on:

- Site search sophistication
- O Breadcrumbs on category pages and product pages
- Sorting and filtering tools
- Live chat

Site Search

Search is a big area where ecommerce stores can really excel and set themselves apart. 100% of our retailers offered a search function, but there was a wide range in terms of sophistication. Many stores pulled ahead of their competitors by using the services of dynamic search tools such as Klevu and Algolia.

Dynamic Search

81.7%

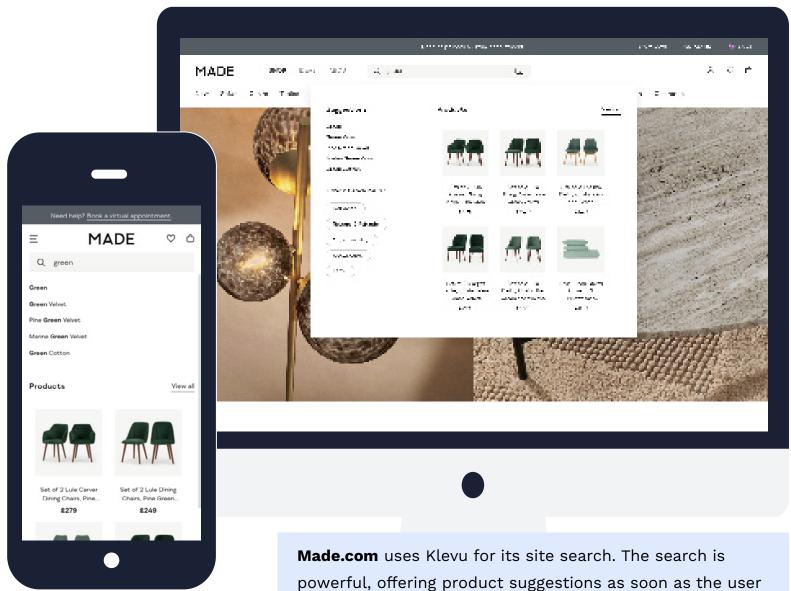
of sites had dynamic search

75%

had dynamic search with product suggestions



While many searches offer search term recommendations, others offer specific products, and others go even further to offer suggested categories, articles or guides as well as products with product images.

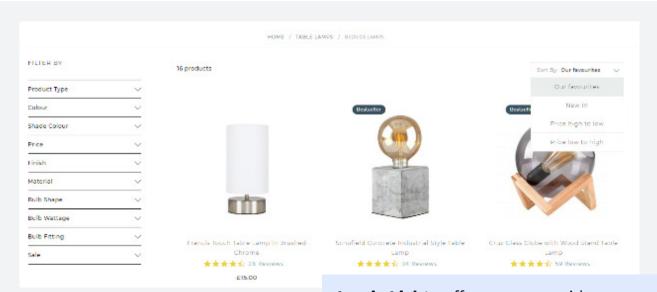


powerful, offering product suggestions as soon as the user clicks into the search bar. Once the user begins typing, the brand offers suggested search terms, specific products, and even customer service options.

Navigation

Filter & Sort

Only one retailer, Dip and Doze, didn't provide a filter on their category pages. **93%** offered a sort by price, but only **35%** allowed users to sort by 'best seller', 'most popular' or 'top picks'.



Iconic Lights offers users a wide range of filter options, plus four ways to sort the products.

Breadcrumbs

Essential for navigation, breadcrumbs help users move forward and backwards easily on a site - going back multiple steps in a single click if required. Without breadcrumbs, it can be cumbersome for a user to return to the previous page, which can be frustrating if they wish to browse through multiple products.

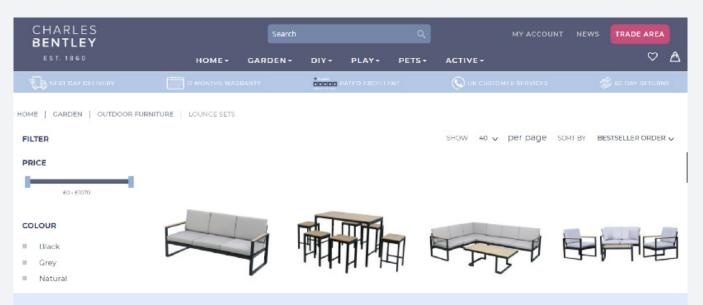
While most of our retailers included breadcrumbs on their category pages, this dropped for product pages.

Breadcrumbs on category page

86.7%

Breadcrumbs on product page

68.3%

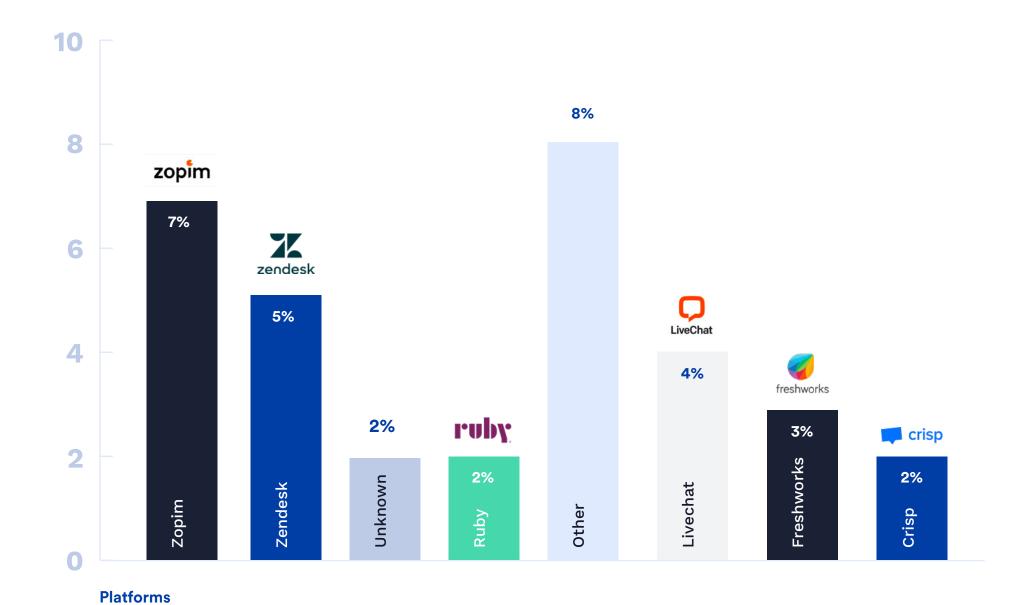


Charles Bentley makes it extremely easy for customers to find what they want with filter and sort options, as well as the ability for users to trace their steps back with breadcrumbs on category and product pages.

Navigation

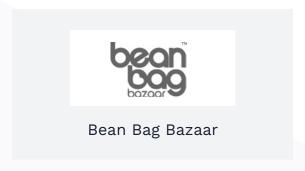
Live Chat

A live customer service is an excellent way to help users by answering their questions on demand. More than half of our retailers **(55%)** offered a live chat option.



Product Page

Product Page: Top Brands



















Product Page UX

Product pages are where the buying and selling happens. A well designed, UX-optimised product page can make a dramatic difference to your conversion rate and average order value, as well as your overall sales and revenue. Get it right by offering a gorgeous, interactive shopping experience that preempts any objections a customer might have by offering as much information as possible on the product page. We looked for brands that:

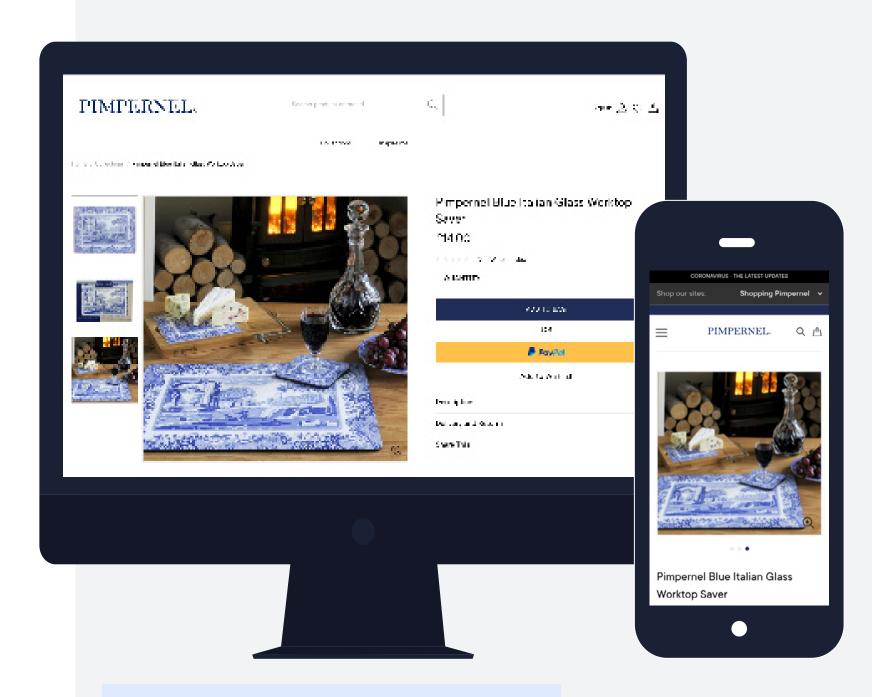
- Offered a range of images, including lifestyle photos
- O Recommended other products
- Included zoom functionality on desktop and mobile

Imagery

Across the board, retailers performed well in providing users with product imagery. **100%** provided at least one image. **86.7%** provided multiple images and **86.7%** provided lifestyle images.

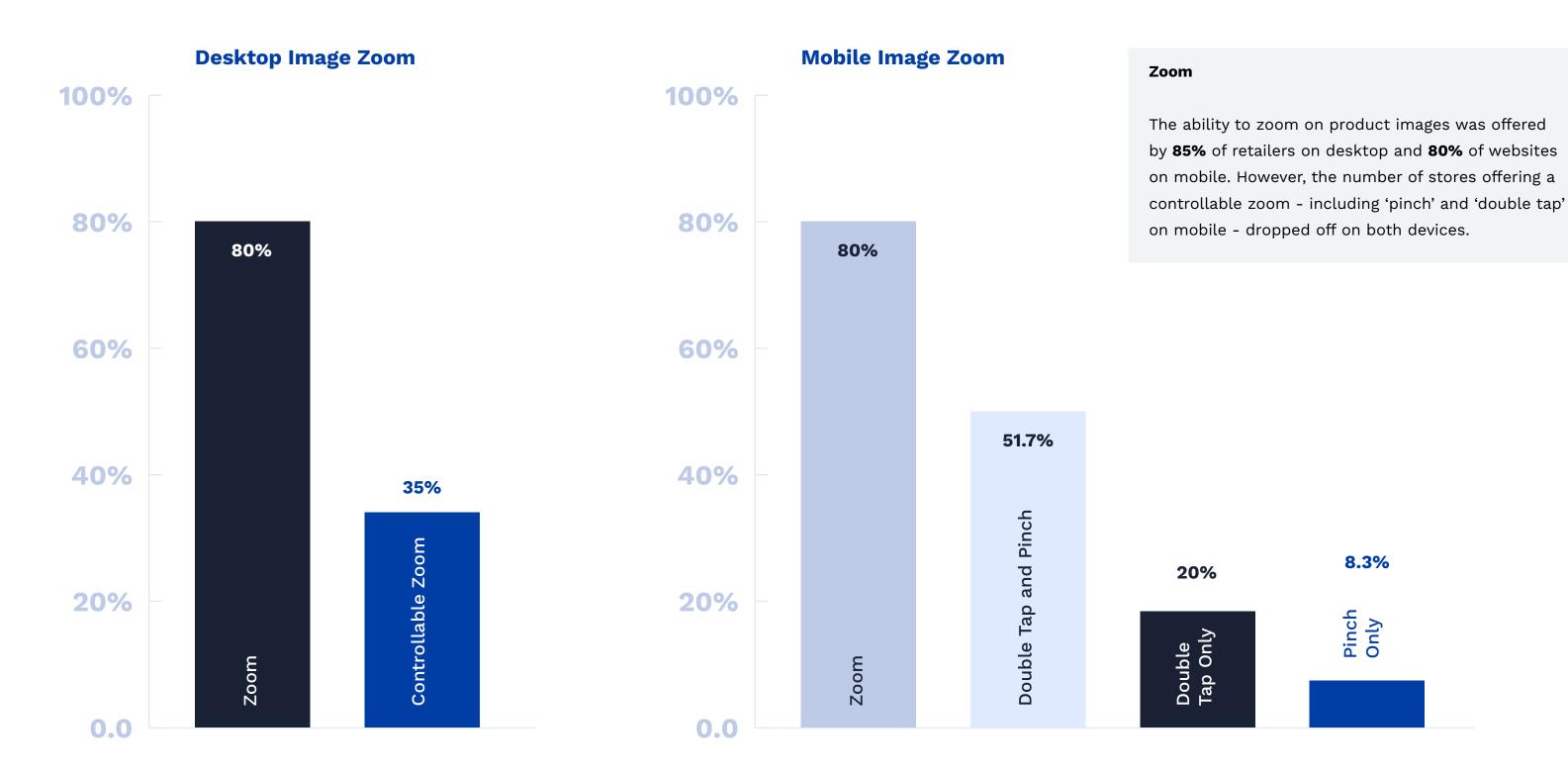
Recommendations

76.7% offered additional product recommendations, such as 'You may also like...' or 'Other customers bought...'. Merchants who are struggling to increase their average order value should look to add in product recommendations as a quick and easy win.



Pimpernel scored top marks for its product pages. It showed its products simply with a product image, lifestyle image, with a controllable zoom on both desktop and mobile.

Product Page UX



: Checkout & Payment

Checkout & Payment: Top Brands











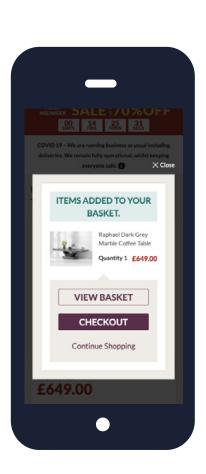
Checkout & Payments

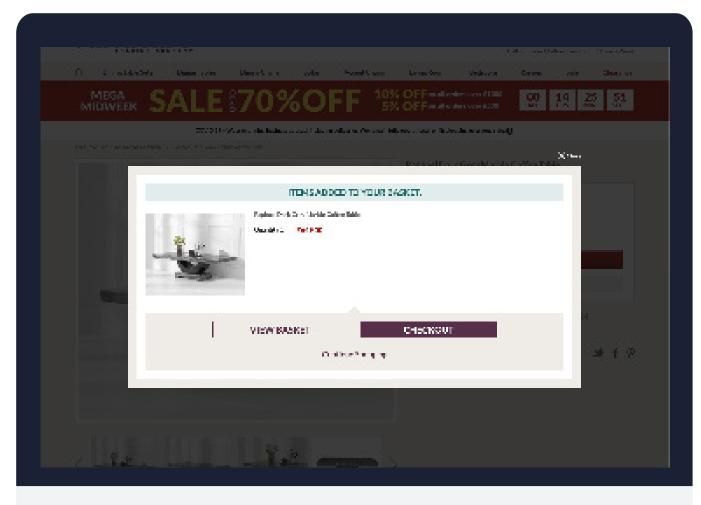
Checkout & Payment is the final hurdle in the customer journey that retailers must overcome to ensure a purchase is made. Abandoned basket rates can skyrocket if checkout and payment is not a fast, streamlined and reassuring process on both desktop and mobile.

None of our retailers delivered on all of our scoring criteria. Big Bathroom Shop came the closest, missing out by just one mark: it did not provide a number keyboard on mobile.

Checkout

- 88.3% let customers stay on the page after adding an item to the cart
- 76.7% notified customers that their item had been added to the cart





Checkout

Product Image in the Basket

Product Image in Checkout

68.3%

Great Furniture Trading Company provides users with a shopping basket pop up that clearly highlights what has been added to the cart - with price, product description and image. The customer then has four easy and clear choices - view the basket, proceed to checkout, continue shopping, or click the 'x' button to return to the product page.

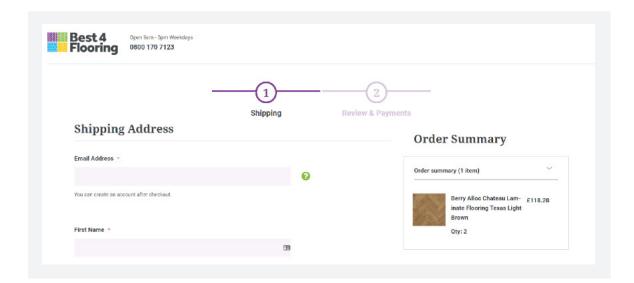
Checkout & Payments

UX at Checkout

Removing distractions is key to helping customers follow the checkout process smoothly, and prevent them from bouncing away. For example, including a guest checkout allows customers to avoid lengthy - and potentially irritating - account set ups.

Removing the main site navigation helps to keep customers focused on the task at hand. Spreading the different checkout steps over a few short pages stops the user from being overwhelmed, and also delivers a degree of engaging gamification with a progress bar.



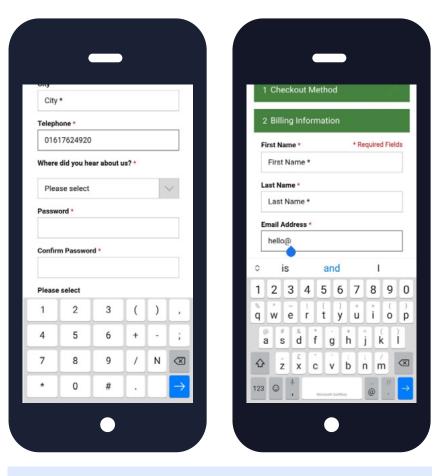


Best4Flooring's checkout is a perfect example - the navigation has been removed, it offers guest checkout, there is product imagery in the cart, there are two steps to the checkout, and customers track their progress through the checkout with the progress bar.

Mobile Checkout

As so much of online shopping is now conducted on mobile, providing a mobile-friendly checkout experience is key. We scored merchants for offering users an input-specific email keyboard and an input-specific number keyboard.

100% of our top 60 included an email keyboard, but only **23.3%** followed up with a number keyboard.



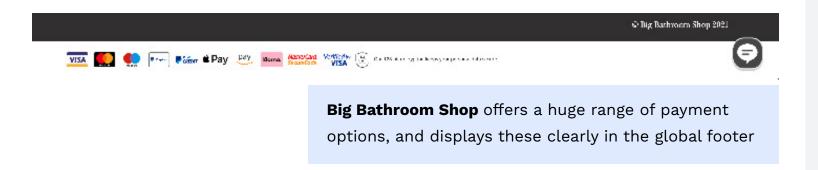
WoodBlocX was one of the few stores to offer both email and number keyboards.

Checkout & Payments

Payment

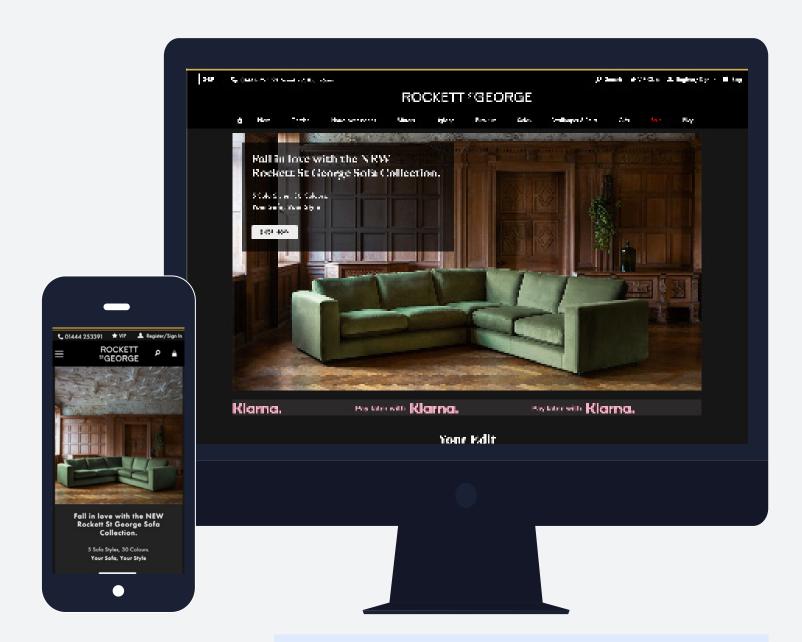
Nearly every merchant offered a minimum of two payment options at checkout. A choice allows the shopper to choose the payment method that is most convenient, and also gives a trust signal to customers that their payment details will be safe and secure.

This trust factor is enhanced by many retailers, **68.3%**, displaying their payment options clearly on the site before customers even get to checkout.



Without doubt, PayPal rules supreme as the secure payment offering of choice. But what is exciting to see is the growth in payment providers such as Klarna, which helps customers to delay payment or spread the cost into a number of smaller installments.





Rockett St George included a rolling banner advertising Klarna immediately underneath the hero banner on the homepage. This signalling of the payment option provides an excellent trust signal to customers.

Delivery & Returns

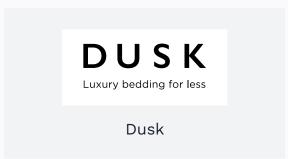
Delivery & Returns: Top Brands





Delivery & Returns: Runners up

















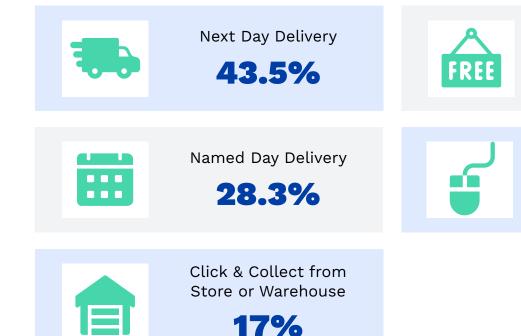
Delivery

Delivery has been a challenging prospect due to the impact of the pandemic. None of the reviewed merchants scored the maximum amount of available points, although Best4Flooring and Robert Dyas came the closest with 2.25 out of a possible 2.5 points.

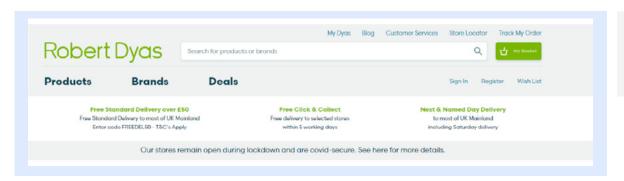
Delays with Royal Mail and overloaded courier services have caused many retailers to remove the option of next day delivery. However, to ensure fair scoring, retailers were given a point if they included clear messaging that stated next day delivery was not currently available due to Covid 19.

In general, most companies were doing a good job in providing a range of delivery options and communicating these clearly on their websites. Nearly all companies provided a dedicated delivery and returns page on their site, with the exception of just two retailers.

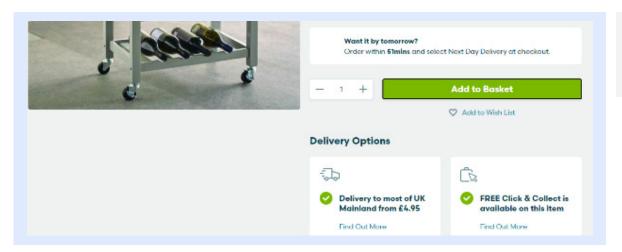
Delivery Options



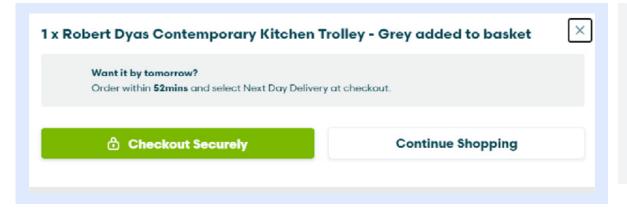
Robert Dyas signposts its excellent delivery options explicitly across its website.



Delivery information is seen in its global header



Delivery information is presented on each product page



And a live
countdown for next
day delivery is given
in the 'add to cart'
notification - a great
way to encourage
commitment from
the shopper

Home & Garden Top 60 Ecommerce Report

Free Delivery

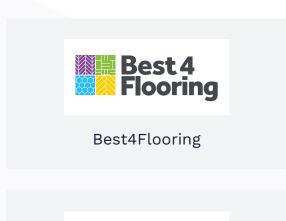
73.3%

Click & Collect

15%

ACommunity

Community: Top Brands

















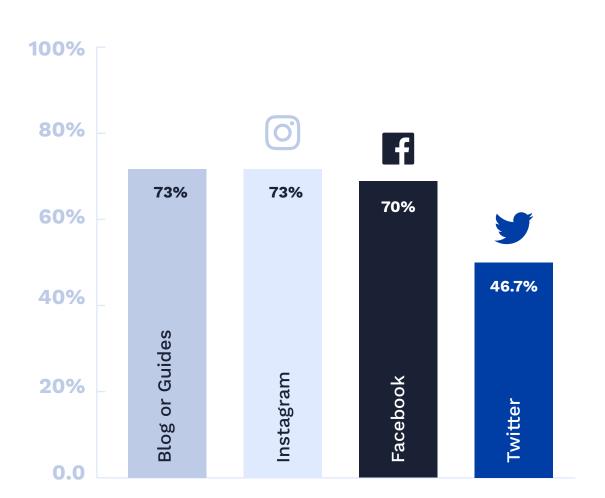
Community

With shops shut, ecommerce retailers have had to go the extra mile to build and maintain an engaged community of customers. Loyal brand ambassadors are fantastic for making repeat purchases and in advocating for a store and its products.

Most of our retailers rose to this community challenge through the use of their social media accounts and email marketing. We scored for an active Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, clear newsletter sign up form and newsletter sign up 'pop up'.

Email

- O 83.3% of merchants had a clear newsletter sign up form on their website typically in the global footer
- **36.7%** went the extra mile with an email signup pop-up form, usually with a discount offer to those who subscribed





Signup for 5% off your first " order **LampShopOnline** offers a slightly more If you haven't signed up for email odates already, subscribe now for sophisticated email pop up. In this instance, it our latest offers & news kicks in only when the user looks to leave the First Name site. This means not only can it capture the email Last Name address for the start of a long term relationship Enter Your Email Here with the user, but it will also encourage a sale. SIGN UP terns and conditions.

Scoring Criteria

The Home & Garden merchants were chosen to represent the average Magento ecommerce retailer. The brands are located around the UK, across various sub-verticals. The final list of sixty merchants gives us a useful insight into the industry that other retailers can benchmark themselves against.

The scoring system is based on Fluid's view of ecommerce best practice, covering speed and security, user experience, search and navigation, community and loyalty, payment and checkout, and delivery and returns.

Scores are weighted across 56 criteria with 21.75 scoring points available. Retailers' final scores are converted to a percentage using the formula: =100/21.75*(Score).

Speed

Using Google PageSpeed Insights score (out of 100)

Mobile speed:

- **0.25 pts** if scored between 25 50
- **0.5 pts** for 50 75
- **0.75 pts** for 75 100

Desktop speed:

- **0.25 pts** if scored between 25 50
- **0.5 pts** for 50 75
- **0.75 pts** for 75 100

Security

0.5 pts for SSL**0.5 pts** for EV SSL

Trust

0.5 pts for reviews on the homepage0.5 pts for reviews on product pages0.5 pts for reassurance icons or messaging in the header

Navigation

0.25 pts for breadcrumbs on category page0.25 pts for breadcrumbs on product page0.5 pts for filtering options on category pages

0.25 pts for offering a sort function0.25 pts for sorting by price0.25 pts for sorting by popularity

0.5 pts for on-site search
0.25 pts for dynamic search with suggestions
0.25 pts for dynamic search with product suggestions
0.5 pts for live chat

Product Page

0.5 pts for product imagery
0.5 pts for lifestyle product imagery
0.5 pts for multiple product images
0.5 pts for product recommendations on product pages

0.5 pts for product zoom on desktop**0.5 pts** for controllable zoom functionality on desktop

0.5 pts for mobile responsive
0.5 pts for mobile product zoom
0.25 pts for Double Tap mobile product zoom
0.25 pts for Pinch mobile product zoom
0.5 pts for Double Tap and Pinch mobile product zoom

Scoring Criteria

Checkout & Payment

0.5 pts for staying on page after adding to cart0.5 pts for add to cart messaging

0.5 pts for product imagery in the cart0.5 pts for product imagery in the checkout

0.25 pts for mobile keyboard**0.25 pts** for mobile number keyboard

0.5 pts for a multi-page checkout
0.5 pts for removed navigation in the checkout
0.5 pts for postcode lookup in the checkout
0.5 pts for guest checkout

0.5 pts for clear payment icons before the cart
0.25 pts for offering PayPal
0.25 pts for offering Klarna
0.25 pts for offering Apple Pay
0.25 pts for offering Amazon Pay

Delivery & Returns

0.25 pts for clear, easy-to-find delivery information0.25 pts for clear, easy-to find returns information

0.5 pts for next day delivery0.5 pts for named day delivery0.5 pts for free delivery (with or without a minimum spend)

0.25 pts for click and collect0.25 pts for click and collect to store or warehouse

Community

0.25 pts for an active Facebook, updated within the last two weeks

0.25 pts for an active Twitter, updated within the last two weeks

0.25 pts for an active Instagram, updated within the last two weeks

0.25 pts for a clear email newsletter signup0.25 pts for email newsletter signup pop up0.25 pts for a blog or helpful guides section



Let's Get Started



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