



## **The Handbook**

### **Codex**

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Template\\_Tags/dropdown\\_cats](http://codex.wordpress.org/Template_Tags/dropdown_cats)

### **Version Date**

9 August 2005

# Template Tags/dropdown cats

## Description

Displays a list of categories in a select (i.e dropdown) box.

## Usage

```
<?php dropdown_cats(optional, 'all', 'sort_column',  
                    'sort_order', optiondates, optioncount,  
                    hide_empty, optionnone, selected, hide); ?>
```

## Examples

### Dropdown with Submit Button

Displays category select (dropdown) list in HTML form with a submit button, in a WordPress sidebar unordered list.

```
<li id="categories"><?php _e('Categories:'); ?>  
    <ul><li>  
        <form action="<?php echo $PHP_SELF ?>" method="get">  
            <?php dropdown_cats(); ?>  
            <input type="submit" name="submit" value="view" />  
        </form>  
    </li></ul>  
</li>
```

### Dropdown without Submit Button

Displays category select (dropdown) in HTML form *without* a submit button.

```
<form name="catform" action="<?php echo $PHP_SELF ?>">  
    <select name="cat" onchange="submit(this.form)">  
        <option value=''>by section</option>  
        <?php dropdown_cats(); ?>  
    </select>  
</form>
```

**A note on the second example:** Using this as-is *will* work, but your page will no longer validate as correct XHTML. If this is important to you, you will need to edit your template-functions-category.php file to comment-out lines 208 (echo "<select name='cat' class='postform'>\n";) and 227 (echo "</select>\n";). This will prevent your form generating superfluous tags.

## ***Parameters***

optionall

(*boolean*) Sets whether to have an option to display all categories. Valid values:

- TRUE (Default)
- FALSE

all

(*string*) Text to display for the option to display all categories. Defaults to 'All'.

sort\_column

(*string*) Key to sort options by. Valid values:

- 'ID' (Default)
- 'name'

sort\_order

(*string*) Sort order for options. Valid values:

- 'asc' (Default)
- 'desc'

optiondates

(*boolean*) Sets whether to display the date of the last post in each category. Valid values:

- TRUE
- FALSE (Default)

optioncount

(*boolean*) Sets whether to display a count of posts in each category. Valid values:

- TRUE
- FALSE (Default)

hide\_empty

(*boolean*) Sets whether to hide (not display) categories with no posts. Valid values:

- TRUE (Default)
- FALSE

optionnone

(*boolean*) Sets whether to have an option to display none of the categories. Valid values:

- TRUE
- FALSE (Default)

selected

(*integer*) Sets the default selected category ID number. Defaults to current category.

hide

(*integer*) Do not display this category (specified by category ID number). There is no default.

## ***Fixes***

When you choose a category when you are not on the main page, you will not move to that category. To fix this find the following line in the template where you are using

Dropdown cats. `<form action="<?php echo $PHP_SELF ?>" method="get">`

Replace it with : `<form action="/index.php" method="get">`

This is a temporary fix to the problem, a real fix will probably come soon. This problem is usually only found on blogs using Apache Rewrite rules.

(Added by [Chenu J](http://chenu-j.net) (<http://chenu-j.net>))

## ***Related***

[the\\_category](#), [the\\_category\\_rss](#), [the\\_category\\_ID](#) (Deprecated), [the\\_category\\_head](#) (Deprecated), [single\\_cat\\_title](#), [category\\_description](#), **dropdown\_cats**, [list\\_cats](#), [wp\\_list\\_cats](#)