



Latest Products & Subcategory Display Fix in CubeCart™ 3

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The Problem

The rows of products that appear in “Latest Products” on the first page of your CubeCart™ store get really screwed up sometimes. They refuse to display correctly, in an even line across.

The same problem is often typical of a large number of subcategories.

The Cause

This problem is caused by differences in the **height** of each element containing an image and title.

Warning: technical crap follows . . .

Read on for a better understanding (recommended) or skip on down to “The Cure.”

The **elements**, which are like “invisible boxes,” that contain each Latest Product image, title and price – these elements are coded to “float” to the left of each other until they fill the page width, then start another line. When these elements are different heights, an element trying to “float” to the left side in order to start a new line can get hung on a longer element, screwing up the whole display. The same problem is true of the subcategory images and titles.

What causes the elements to be different heights? You may have images of different heights in your store. And, even if all the images are the same height, you may have titles that take up one line of text in the element “box” and others that take up two or more lines, adding to the overall height of the element. It is these uneven heights that screw up the display.

The Cure

The cure for this problem is to make some settings that ensure that all of your Latest Products and Subcategory elements will display at the same height – so the rows will line up evenly.

The exact setting for optimal height of these elements *will differ from store to store!* The exact height setting in pixels, which works for one of my stores, may not work optimally or at all for your store. When applying the fixes given below, you will have to experiment with the number in the height setting until it looks just right in your store.

What you have to arrive at is a static height setting for the image elements, so that the height will be the same whether they contain one or two lines of text, or even if one image is larger than the rest in height. Then, they will all line up properly. The height you specify should **be equal to or greater than the the length of the element required for your longest image with the most lines of text.** Don't worry, you don't have to know this number; you can find it by trial and error.



Other Fixes

There are other ways to work on the “Latest Products” display problem. One fix of a different nature is given by Goober999 in the [CubeCart Forums](#) -> [CubeCart™ Version 3](#) -> [Skins & Templates](#) forum in a post entitled :

[Latest products display fix](#)

This one works!

If you are uncomfortable experimenting to find the correct height setting for these elements through trial and error, you may wish to click on that link and try Goober’s fix. Goober is a good modder of CubeCart™ who has been around the forum for a long while – since December 2004 – so his fix probably works great. It requires additional code to be added to one of the **includes** files in CubeCart™.

I prefer my own fix, although a little tweaking of it is necessary in order to custom-taylor this fix to your particular store. When an upgrade comes out for your CubeCart™ you may need to overwrite your **includes** files, in which case you would have to modify the new file all over again. The fixes given below all pertain to changes within your skin of choice, which may never need to be altered during cart upgrades.

SUBCATEGORY DISPLAY FIX – CLASSIC, KILLER, LEGEND

In your skin of choice,

OPEN: **skins/your_skin/styleSheets/layout.css**

FIND:

```
.subCat {  
    text-align: center;  
    padding: 8px;  
    float: left;  
    width: 110px;  
}
```

ADD below the width and above the closing curly bracket (**}**) a height value for the subCat class:

```
.subCat {  
    text-align: center;  
    padding: 8px;  
    float: left;  
    width: 110px;  
    height: 150px;  
}
```

Remember to end each line with a semi-colon “ ; “



Remember, 150 is just an example – you'll have to experiment to find the height that works best for your own site, depending on the differences in image heights and the lengths of title texts. You can experiment by saving and uploading the file to your site, back to its correct folder, then refreshing your store. If all your images are lining up properly in all your subcategory pages, then you got it right first time. If the display is not right, increase the value and try again.

That's all there is to this fix for subcategory display!

LATEST PRODUCTS DISPLAY FIX – CLASSIC, KILLER, LEGEND

In your skin of choice,

OPEN: **skins/your_skin/styleTemplates/content/index.tpl**

FIND:

```
<div style="float: left; text-align: center; width: {VAL_WIDTH}px;">
```

ADD after **{VAL_WIDTH}px;** and before **">** a height value for this division, as in the example below:

```
<div style="float: left; text-align: center; width: {VAL_WIDTH}px; height: 150px;">
```

Again, remember, 150 is just an example – you'll have to experiment to find the height that works best for your own site, depending on the differences in image heights and the lengths of title texts. You can experiment by saving and uploading the file to your site, back to its correct folder, then refreshing your store. If all your images are lining up properly in all your subcategory pages, then you got it right first time. If the display is not right, increase the value and try again.

That's all there is to this fix for Latest Products display!

Valuable Hints While You're Here

While you are working with **layout.css**, here are a few tricks to help you customize your store:

Enhance Your Subcategory Images

For instance, if you want only two subcategories per line with large images in the Legend skin, you can add values for your images' widths under the section **#subCats** with a statement that enlarges the image. If you want to add a little space between the top of the image and the category title, you can add a margin to the top of the image. Basically, you can specify any attributes allowed by CSS for these images by adding a new section in the stylesheet that will allow you to specify image properties. ***Learn how on the following page . . .***



FIND:

```
#subCats {
    background-color: #EBEDFE;
    text-align: center;
    border: 1px solid #C9CEFC;
    margin: 0px;
    padding: 3px;
    float: left;
    width: 387px;
}
.subCat {
    text-align: center;
    padding: 8px;
    float: left;
    width: 110px;
}
```

(Note: Example taken from Classic skin, colors, etc. will be different for other skins but instructions are the same by analogy.)

ADD a section for image properties, between **#subCats** and **.subCat**:

```
#subCats {
    background-color: #EBEDFE;
    text-align: center;
    border: 1px solid #C9CEFC;
    margin: 0px;
    padding: 3px;
    float: left;
    width: 387px;
}
#subCats image {
    width: 175px;
    margin-top: 5px;
}
.subCat {
    text-align: center;
    padding: 0px;
    float: left;
    width: 190px;
    height: 340px;
}
```



Note on the previous page that a section is added which allows me to set attributes for any images occurring in the #subCats division. I have set the image width at 175 pixels wide, and I have added 5 pixels of space between the top of my images and the subcategory title which will appear above it. Then, I have edited .subCat to remove padding, and to widen the element 190px, large enough to accommodate the 175px wide images, and to specify a height so that the rows will display properly.

You can learn more about CSS and thus alter your subcategory images in many ways after adding this little section to your stylesheet.

RESOURCES

CSS tutorials and information about syntax and properties can be found at <http://www.w3schools.com/css/default.asp>

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My name is Mark Gunter, and I am known as "MarksCarts" on the CubeCart™ forums. Please give me some feedback on the usefulness of this tutorial.

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