



MAIL & PACKAGE THEFT

Each year, Americans trust the U.S. Postal Service® with billions of letters and packages, and the vast majority of those arrive safely at their intended destinations. But there are always thieves will target mail. Postal Inspectors investigate these crimes and arrest thousands of mail and package thieves each year. Still, there are extra steps you can take to ensure your mail arrives safely at its destination

Postal service

Deposit mail close to pickup time in the outgoing mail of the USPS® Blue Collection Boxes before the last collection time or inside a local Post Office.

Inquire about overdue mail, if you do not receive a check, credit card, or other valuable mail you are expecting, contact the sender as soon as possible and inquire about it.

Don't send cash, be careful about what you send. Never risk sending cash in the mail.

Arrange for prompt pickup if you cannot be home to receive a package, make another arrangement or use the *USPS Hold Mail Service*. Never leave packages to sit outside your door for long.

Use Hold for Pickup when shipping packages, use the *Hold for Pickup* option, and the recipients can collect the package at your local Post Office.

Request signature confirmation when mailing something important, and to ensure it is received by the intended recipient.

File a change of address if you move, make sure you file a change of address with the Postal Service and let your financial institutions know as well.

Package Theft

Package thefts often increase between the months of October and January. Some package thieves follow delivery trucks and then take the packages after the delivery is made. Others are crimes of opportunity, when thieves see packages in plain view of the street.

Track packages to know when to expect them and plan accordingly. If you can't be home, have items shipped to your work address, a post office box, or to the home of a friend or neighbor who's around during the day.

FedEx delivery locations can be changed up to the end of the business day before delivery is scheduled. You can also request to pick packages up from a FedEx retail location (Walgreens and Albertsons) or ask that a FedEx delivery be held until a time when you can be home to receive it in person. **UPS** also offers delivery to a UPS facility or retail store and the ability to reschedule deliveries. **Amazon's** latest effort towards package theft prevention is something called "Amazon Day Delivery" which offers consolidated weekly Amazon deliveries for Amazon Prime members on the day of their choosing. Instead of having a package delivered to your home or business address, you can have it delivered to an [Amazon Hub Locker](#) location and collect your package at a time that suits you.

If possible, request delivery alerts to inform you as soon as packages are delivered. Many companies also allow you to provide delivery instructions when placing your order. Take advantage of the ability to request delivery personnel place packages in specific hidden locations, i.e., behind a potted plant or piece of furniture on your front porch, inside a screen door, or on a back porch. Require a signature for all deliveries or posting a prominent notice that your premises are under surveillance.

