



# PROTECTING YOUR MAIL

Mail theft can occur anywhere and with any type of mailbox. These thefts often take place under the cover of darkness or in the early morning hours, when few witnesses may be around. That's why it is very important to learn the steps you can use to prevent becoming a victim of this crime.

To protect yourself from possible mail theft:

- Collect your mail from your mailbox every day as soon as possible after it is delivered. Do not allow mail to accumulate, even in a locked mailbox.
- Deposit outgoing mail into blue collection boxes before the final pick up of the same day of deposit. Check the pick-up schedule posted on the box to ensure your mail will not sit in the box overnight or over the weekend.
- If you have concerns about security in your neighborhood, place mail in a secure receptacle at your place of business or inside at a Post Office.
- When expecting packages to be delivered, monitor tracking at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) so you know when to expect your shipment. A new U.S. Postal Service feature provides email and text alerts to notify customers of package delivery — sign up at [www.myusps.com](http://www.myusps.com). You can go to this same website to have the Post Office hold your mail if you are absent from your home for a period of time.
- If you see any suspicious substance, such as glue or other sticky product on the mailbox, please contact your local Post Office to report it and notify Postal Inspectors.
- Immediately report any suspicious activity to local police.

You can report mail theft, identity theft, fraud or other crimes involving the U.S. Mail online 24/7 by visiting the Inspection Service website at <https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov> (Select “contact us” and then “file a complaint.”)

**If you see a mail thief at work, call local police immediately, then call Postal Inspectors at 877-876-2455.**

