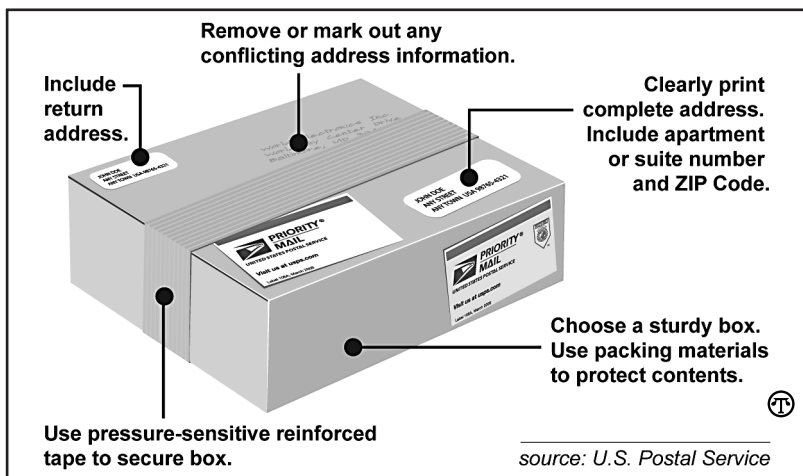


HINTS FOR HOLIDAYS

Holiday Mailing Tips



Clearly labeling packages and cushioning contents with newspaper or packing material can help your holiday mailings arrive safely.

(NAPSA)—Each year, Americans send millions of holiday packages to friends and family around the world. If you plan to ship some holiday gifts this season, following a few tips could help your packages arrive on time and intact.

For instance, choose a box that is sturdy and cushion contents with shredded newspaper, packing material or foam peanuts. Fragile items may require double boxing with foam packing peanuts around both the item and inner box.

The U.S. Postal Service, which has delivered the holidays for 234 years, has these suggestions:

- Use tape that is designed for shipping. Nylon-reinforced, pressure-sensitive tape is ideal. Be sure to secure all box flaps.

- Place clearly written delivery and return addresses on the outside of the box. Verify that the ZIP Codes are correct and legible. Including a second set of labels on the inside of the box is also a good idea. Remove or mark out any conflicting address information.

- Remove batteries from toys or electronic devices.

- Use the free Priority Mail

Flat Rate boxes. If your item fits in the Priority Mail Flat Rate box, it ships for one price without being weighed. Express Mail offers premium shipping when time is short.

Saving Time

Any of the 36,000 post offices, stations, branches and contract postal units of the Postal Service can help with holiday mailing and shipping needs. You can visit the U.S. Postal Service Web site at www.usps.com to print postage and labels or find holiday mailing information 24 hours a day. New this year, you can go to usps.com on your Internet-capable cell phone or mobile device to find a post office, get a ZIP Code or track and confirm your shipment.

Timely Stamps

You can purchase stamps for holiday mailings without going to the post office. They're available at more than 58,000 supermarkets, drugstores and other retailers, including ATM machines at about 18,000 banks and financial institutions. To find participating retailers or get more information, visit www.usps.com or call (800) ASK-USPS.