

Postal Service Tips For A Less-Stressed Holiday

(NAPS)—The U.S. Postal Service plans for its peak season all year long. With more than 240 years of experience delivering the holidays, the Postal Service is uniquely qualified to make this magical season the best one yet. Here are some tips to help everyone have a happier, less-stressed holiday by getting greeting cards and packages delivered on time and intact.

Post Office, by choosing the Hold for Pickup option.

- Redirect packages when you won't be home to receive it, by choosing the USPS Package Intercept option for an additional fee.

Skip the Trip and Ship Online


The Postal Service offers solutions designed specifically to make shipping holiday packages easy and convenient.

Customers can avoid holiday hassles by:

- Ordering free Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express boxes and envelopes at usps.com/freeboxes, or pick them up at a local Post Office.
- Using Click-N-Ship at usps.com/ship to create shipping labels with USPS Tracking and pay for postage—with free flat-rate boxes, there's no need to weigh.
- Getting packages picked up for free at home or office with Package Pickup. Just hand the package to

KNOW the Deadlines

USPS Retail Ground [®]	Reliable and economical shipping for the less-than-urgent delivery of packages, thick envelopes or tubes, for the planners out there.	MAIL BY: Dec. 14
First-Class Mail [®]	Affordable way to send heartfelt messages in cards, letters, and small packages.	MAIL BY: Dec. 20
Priority Mail [®]	Easy and convenient way to ship, has a flat-rate option for those sending a lot in a short period of time.	MAIL BY: Dec. 21
Priority Mail Express [®]	Fastest way to get things delivered, for the procrastinators out there.	MAIL BY: Dec. 23



For the complete list of mailing and shipping deadlines, go to usps.com/holidaynews.

Sneak a Peek in Your Mailbox

Informed Delivery notifications make it possible for customers to receive an e-mail every morning with images of incoming mail and packages. To sign up, go to informedelivery.com, where customers can:

- Receive text messages or e-mail alerts notifying that a package is en route and additional notifications when the package has been delivered.
- Provide delivery instructions online and authorize the carrier to leave the package in a specific location.
- Request the package be held at the

the mail carrier on his or her regular delivery route. Pickups can be scheduled at usps.com/pickup.

How to Avoid a Holiday Glitch

Here are some additional tips to help avoid a glitch-free holiday:

TIPS TO AVOID A SHIPPING GLITCH



- Select a durable box to protect contents** (Priority Mail[®] and Priority Mail Express[®] boxes are free at local Post Offices.)
- Do NOT reuse mailing boxes** (Boxes weaken in the shipping process.)
- Print addresses clearly** (Add all address elements including apartment numbers and directional information (ex: 123 S Main St. Apt. 2B).)
- Never guess a ZIP Code™** (Look up a ZIP Code™ at usps.com under Quick Tools. NO ZIP is better than a WRONG ZIP.)
- Place a card inside with delivery and return addresses** (This helps postal employees deliver the item should the mailing label become damaged or fall off.)
- Properly address packages** (Include both "to" and "from" information, and only on one side.)

