



## Mail Fraud Tips

In light of recent check thefts from mailboxes, the following are local law enforcement tips to avoid mail theft:

- **Bank online:** Refrain from mailing checks, cash, gift cards or other negotiable items if possible. Use online banking instead.
- **Use a gel pen:** If you must send a check in the mail, use a gel pen to write out checks. Ballpoint pen ink can be easily washed off a check.
- **Mail at post office:** Use the letter slots inside your Post Office for your mail.
- **Use plain white envelopes to mail checks:** Do not use return envelopes with the utility logo or municipality for tax payments on them. These are easy targets for thieves.
- **Monitor bank activity:** Check bank activity online and review bank statements as soon as they are received, to check for discrepancies.
- **See something, say something:** Call 911 to report any suspicious activity near mailboxes.
- **Report the theft:** If you have been a victim of mail theft, call the U.S. Postal Inspectors Service at 877-876-2455 and choose option 4.

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### More Tips from the US Postal Inspector's Website:

- Use the letter slots inside your Post Office for your mail.
- Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight. If you're expecting checks, credit cards, or other negotiable items, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- If you don't receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- If you change your address, immediately notify your Post Office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.
- Don't send cash in the mail.
- Report all suspected mail theft to a Postal Inspector.

Consult with your local Postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes, including the availability of locked centralized or curbside mailboxes.

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