



Use the Letter slots inside your Post Office

Mail Theft

The U.S. Postal Service reaches every home and business in the country. The vast majority of the mail it delivers arrives intact, but thieves persist in their efforts to steal it. Postal Inspectors use proven remedies to address the problem. They team with the Postal Service to devise new security strategies that thwart thieves. You can help by reporting suspected mail theft or identity theft.

Protecting your Mail:

Postal Inspectors across the country work hard to protect your mail. But with deliveries to more than 100 million addresses, the Postal Inspection Service can't do the job alone.

Here's what you can do to protect your mail from thieves:

Use the letter slots inside your Post Office for your mail, or hand it to a letter carrier.

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.

Tell your Post Office when you'll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.

Report all suspected mail theft to a Postal Inspector.

Consider starting a neighborhood watch program. By exchanging work and vacation schedules with trusted friends and neighbors, you can watch each other's mailboxes (as well as homes).

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

Ask your bank for "secure" checks that can't be altered.

If you see a mail thief at work or if you believe your mail was stolen, call police immediately and then call Postal Inspectors at 877-876-2455 (press 3).

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File a Mail Theft Complaint:

Report these issues to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at:

<https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/contactUs/filecomplaint.aspx>

Please select "Problem" under Inquiry Type, then under Customer Service, select Support, and Mail Theft. Please articulate why your complaint is mail theft related in the "additional information" section. Even so, U.S. Postal Inspectors, charged with protecting the nation's mail system from criminal misuse, are leaders in the fight against identity theft.

Postal Inspectors provide these ID theft tips:

Review your consumer credit reports annually.

Shred and destroy unwanted documents that contain personal information.

Deposit mail in U.S. Postal Service collection boxes.

Don't leave mail in your mailbox overnight or on weekends.

What you should do to avoid ID Theft:

If the crime involved the U.S. Mail, contact your nearest U.S. Postal Inspection Service office and report it. Call the fraud units of the three major credit bureaus listed below and request a "fraud alert" be placed on your credit file.

Check your monthly financial statements for accuracy.

Order copies of your credit report from the credit bureaus listed below to check whether any fraudulent accounts were opened without your knowledge or consent. Report suspected credit card fraud to the three major credit reporting bureaus, which you may contact online or by phone:

1. Equifax: 800-525-6285

2. Experian: 888-397-3742

3. TransUnion: 800-680-7289

Contact your banks and creditors, by phone and in writing, and report the crime. You may be advised to close some or all of your accounts. At the least, change your PIN codes and passwords immediately.

Record the names and phone numbers of people with whom you discussed your case and retain all original reports and supporting documents. Keeping accurate and complete records are a big step toward helping you resolve your problem.

Contact your financial institutions and request they flag your accounts. Instruct them to contact you immediately if there is unusual activity on your accounts.

File your complaint online with the FTC, or call their Identity Theft Hotline at 1-877-IDTHEFT. The FTC has counselors to assist identity theft victims with resolving financial and other problems that can result from this crime.

Contact your financial institutions and request they flag your accounts. Instruct them to contact you immediately if there is unusual activity on your accounts. You can find the fraud hotline and customer service numbers at many large financial services companies.

Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act, 18 USC § 1028(a)(7) Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act, 18 USC. Identity theft is a criminal offense. It occurs when a person knowingly transfers or uses, without lawful authority, a means of identification of another person with the intent to commit or to aid or abet any unlawful activity that constitutes a violation of federal law or that constitutes a felony under any applicable state or local law.*

*Source: USPS