



“Package Theft Prevention Tips”

If you have ever ordered clothing, jewelry, gifts, or any other merchandise by phone, computer, or mail chances are those items were delivered straight to your home. Most deliveries DO NOT require a signature and are generally left at your front door even if no one is home to accept them. These packages, which quickly catch the eye of potential thieves, offer criminals that ‘Crime of Opportunity’ they are looking for. Thieves looking to steal your packages will follow or watch for UPS, Fed Ex, US Mail, Amazon and other delivery service trucks so they can target your home after the parcels are delivered. While this type of crime can occur at any time throughout the year it usually increases around the Holidays due to increased shopping practices of residents. Below are some ***“Package Theft Prevention Tips”*** for you to use which will help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of this crime. ***If Possible:***

- ***Ask for a tracking number. Most major shipping companies offer this service at no charge. This number allows you to track your packages and notifies you when they will be delivered.***
- ***Request a “Signature Delivery Option”. This requires a signature when the packages are delivered and ensures they will not be left at the front door.***
- ***Request a specific drop off time and date when you will be home to accept your packages.***
- ***Arrange to have your packages held at the shipping service so you can pick them up.***
- ***Ask the delivery service to leave your packages at a side or back door. An enclosed porch where packages are out of sight is also a good option.***
- ***Have your packages delivered to your workplace.***
- ***Have your packages delivered to the home of a relative or neighbor who will be there to accept them.***
- ***Ask to have your packages delivered to a retail store so you can pick them up at your convenience.***
- ***Ask a trustworthy neighbor to keep a “Watchful Eye” out for you packages. If they’re willing, ask them to safeguard your packages until you return home.***

If your packages do not arrive as scheduled contact the sender immediately.



“Additional Package Delivery Options”

With the U.S. Postal Service, for instance, you can authorize the USPS to have certain deliveries left at a back or side door, on the porch, in the garage, or with a neighbor (to do so, you'll first need to create an account at USPS.com and enter the package tracking number to see whether it's eligible). Deliveries can also be held for pickup at a post office or be delivered to a [GoPost location](#). GoPost is a new, convenient way to receive and ship packages. They're automated, secured, self-service parcel lockers placed near certain post offices, grocery stores, pharmacies, transportation hubs, shopping centers.

FedEx and UPS also offer alternatives. With FedEx [Delivery Manager](#), for instance, you can customize delivery times and addresses, have your packages held at a FedEx location, sign for your delivery in advance, and provide specific delivery location instructions. You can sign up for free but FedEx charges a fee for certain services, such as scheduling a delivery.

UPS offers a service called [My Choice](#) (the basic program is free) that gives you advance notice of delivery times and allows you to reroute packages to another address or reschedule deliveries for a future date. You can also activate a vacation setting to have packages held and delivered when you return home.

UPS has a separate service, [Access Point](#), that allows you to drop off and pick up packages at designated neighborhood businesses—supermarkets, convenience stores, pharmacies, dry cleaners, and the like. (You'll need a government ID to retrieve your package.) All 4,400 UPS Store locations across the country are part of the network.

Amazon.com also offers an alternative to home delivery. Instead of adding a shipping address at checkout, you can designate delivery to an [Amazon Locker](#)—a self-service kiosk located in shopping centers, retail stores, transit stations, and elsewhere. Once you select an Amazon Locker, you'll receive a pickup code when the package is delivered. You can then collect your package up to three business days after delivery. If you fail to do so, the package will be returned to Amazon.

What Should You Do If You See Packages Being Stolen In Your Neighborhood?

- 1. Call 911 immediately! Tell the call taker you are reporting a “Crime in Progress”**
- 2. Supply 911 and the Chicago Police Department with an accurate description of the suspect(s) and any vehicles that may be used.**