



# UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

## Six Ways to Protect Mail and Packages



- 1. Don't leave delivered mail and packages unattended.** Just as wallets and purses shouldn't be left on the front seat of an unlocked car overnight, mail and packages shouldn't be left uncollected in mailboxes or on front porches for any length of time.
- 2. Going out of town? Hold mail at the local Post Office.** Instead of risking leaving a package unattended for an extended period of time, customers planning on being away from home for a few days are encouraged to take advantage of the Hold Mail service on *USPS.com*. Letters and packages will be held securely at the local *Post Office* until the customers return.
- 3. Plan ahead. Ship using *Hold for Pickup*.** When shipping packages, customers can choose the *Hold for Pickup* option, and the recipients can collect the packages at their local *Post Office*. For customers receiving packages, they can redirect incoming packages to their local *Post Office* by selecting *Hold for Pickup* using *USPS Package Intercept* on *USPS.com*.
- 4. Customize the delivery.** If the package doesn't fit in the mailbox and the customer won't be home to receive it, the customer can provide delivery instructions online and authorize the carrier to leave it in a specified location. Visit *USPS.com*, enter the tracking number and select Delivery Instructions.
- 5. Secure the shipment using *USPS Special Services*.** *Signature Confirmation* helps ensure the package ends up in the right hands by requiring a signature at the time of delivery. For the most valuable packages, customers can opt for *Registered Mail* service. A *Registered Mail* piece receives special handling from the time it's mailed until it's delivered, documenting the chain of custody.
- 6. Monitor your front door.** If you have a home security camera system, ensure it captures activity at your front door and mailbox. If you catch any mail thieves in the act, save the video and alert your local Postal Inspectors.