PREVENTING AND REPORTING MAIL THEFT

Email and online bill pay are convenient, yet many still prefer corresponding via traditional mail service.

On average, 700 million pieces of mail are delivered daily to U.S. households and businesses by the U.S. Postal Service. The fact that mail sometimes include such things as government-issued photo IDs, checks, and credit cards, make mailboxes tempting targets for thieves. Eliminating the opportunity for a thief to steal your mail involves taking a few simple measures.

It Starts With Your Mailbox

- Invest in a sturdy locking mailbox and install it according to the approved mailbox guidelines found on the USPS website.

- Install a high-quality night vision security camera in an area that faces the mailbox

Collecting and Sending Mail

- Collect your mail promptly daily; do not leave it inside your mailbox overnight.

- If your outgoing mail contains valuable items such as checks or gift cards, or applications with personal identification information, do not place it in your mailbox for pickup; instead, take it to the post office or hand it to your letter carrier.

- Before going on vacation, ask a neighbor to collect your mail, o put your mail on hold using the USPS Hold Mail Service.

Reporting Mail Theft

- If your mailbox shows signs of tampering or if you suspect your mail has been stolen, report it to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service by calling 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777) or visiting https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov

Did you know? In an average year, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service:

- responds to more than 27,000 consumer fraud complaints, including reports of identity theft.
- investigates roughly 3,000 mail fraud cases, resulting in some 1,300 arrests and millions of dollars in restitution.
- arrests approximately 10,000 criminal suspects; many of the arrests are for mail theft or possession of stolen mail.

Contact Us

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This leaflet is part of a series of public safety-related materials co-created by City of Diamond Bar and L.A. County Sheriff's Department and available on the City website for viewing, downloading, and sharing.

www.diamondbarca.gov/publicsafety

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