

Mailbox Guidelines

So what makes a good mailbox?

From the wear and tear of daily use to constant assault from the elements, these guidelines will help you set up a mailbox that stands up to it all.

If you're buying a new mailbox, look for the Postmaster General's seal of approval; every new mailbox design should be reviewed and approved before it goes to market.

If you opt to construct your own mailbox, you should run your plans by your local postmaster. Overall, the mailbox you build will need to meet the same size, strength, and quality standards as manufactured boxes.

The house or apartment number should be clearly displayed on your mailbox. And, if your mailbox is on a different street than your house, the street name should appear on it, too.

Placement

The Post

Maintenance

Door Slots

Because of varying road and curb conditions, the Postal Service™ recommends that you contact your local postmaster for approval of the location of your mailbox before you put it up.

Put a roadside mailbox where a carrier can safely reach inside without leaving the truck. That means positioning it about 41" to 45" off the ground and back about 6" to 8" from the curb. In the absence of a raised curb, contact your local postmaster for guidance.

If you live in the city and are attaching the box to your house, just make sure it can be accessed easily from your sidewalk, steps, or porch. Because city carriers often shoulder heavy bags, put your mailbox about 4' from the ground. That way, your carrier won't have to stretch or bend to reach it. And remember to keep the path to your mailbox clear in inclement weather.

