



# Prevent Package Theft

The season to “shop online” has begun and so will theft of packages from front porches & doorsteps. Most packages are simply left at your front door for you – or for criminals to pick up before you get home. As always, most crimes are crimes of opportunity and this is the opportunity that thieves are looking for to steal your packages. These thieves have been known to follow, or watch for, UPS, FedEx, US Mail, or other delivery services to choose which parcel they want to snatch off doorsteps.

This type of crime can happen at any time of the year but it usually increases around the holidays due to the increase of on line shopping and deliveries.

Here are a few prevention tips to help reduce the chance of becoming a victim of “Package Theft”;

- 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. While this might seem like an inconvenience to you, you will be assured to get your package.
- Ask the delivery service to leave your packages at a side or back door.
- If possible, 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.
- If your packages do not arrive as scheduled contact the sender immediately.
- Use a deliver disc (packages are placed on it and you are sent an alert, if they are removed an alarm sounds.)

**If you see someone stealing a package in your neighborhood, call 911 immediately. Report that you are seeing a CRIME IN PROGRESS and provide a description of the suspect (s) and any vehicles that may be involved.**

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