



RHHA Crime Watch



Royal Highlands Homeowners Association August 2 2025

Mail Stolen From Five Homes on Friday/Saturday



A neighbor found several pieces of mail stolen from mailboxes in the 9700 block of Trail Hill and the 9500 block of Faircrest. The mail was left next to the sidewalk on Audelia, and our neighbor found it at 8:40 on Saturday, August 2.

Please report stolen mail to the Post Office at **www.uspis.gov/report**. We'll also alert our Dallas Police patrol officers.

How can you protect your mail?

Preventing mail theft involves a combination of smart habits, physical security measures, and utilizing services offered by the USPS.

1. Promptly Retrieve Your Mail:

- Don't leave mail unattended: This is the most crucial step. Get your mail as soon as possible after it's delivered. Mail left in an unsecured mailbox, especially overnight, is an easy target.
- Know your delivery times: If you know when your mail typically arrives, you can retrieve it shortly after.
- Avoid using the outgoing mail flag: This signals to thieves that there might be outgoing mail (potentially containing checks or sensitive information) in your mailbox.
- If sending mail: Deposit outgoing mail in a secure, blue USPS collection box or directly hand it to your letter carrier at the post office. Don't leave it in your residential mailbox for pickup.

2. Enhance Mailbox Security:

- Invest in a locking mailbox: Many residential mailboxes are not designed to lock. Upgrade to a sturdy, lockable mailbox that allows mail to be dropped in but requires a key to retrieve. Look for features like:
 - Sturdy construction: Made from durable materials like galvanized steel or heavy-duty aluminum.
 - High-quality locking mechanism: Resistant to picking and tampering.
 - Aperture restrictors: To prevent "fishing" mail out with tools.
 - Secure drop slots: Ensuring mail drops into a secure compartment.

3. Utilize USPS Services:

- USPS Informed Delivery: Sign up for this free service. It sends you daily email notifications with images of your incoming mail and tracking information for packages. This helps you know what to expect and quickly identify if something is missing.
- Hold Mail Service: If you're going out of town, even for a few days, use the USPS Hold Mail Service. Your mail will be held securely at your local post office until you return.
- Hold for Pickup: When ordering packages, you can often choose the "Hold for Pickup" option, allowing you to collect packages directly from your local post office.
- Signature Confirmation: For valuable or sensitive mail, consider using services like Signature Confirmation or Registered Mail, which require a signature upon delivery, ensuring it reaches the intended recipient.
- Rent a P.O. Box: For maximum security, consider renting a Post Office Box. This is one of the most secure ways to receive mail, as it's kept at the post office.

4. Leverage Technology and Community:

- Install a security camera: A security camera (with motion detection) near your mailbox can deter thieves and provide valuable evidence if theft occurs. Even a visible "dummy" camera can act as a deterrent.
- Motion sensor lights: Lights that activate when motion is detected can startle thieves and draw attention to suspicious activity.

5. Smart Mail Habits:

- Never send cash in the mail: Use checks, money orders, or electronic payments instead.
- Switch to electronic statements and payments: Where possible, opt for online billing and payments to reduce the amount of sensitive information traveling through the mail.

- Keep your address updated: If you move, promptly notify the Post Office and all your financial institutions and correspondents of your new address to prevent mail from being sent to your old address.
- Immediately report missing mail: If you're expecting something important (like a check, credit card, or official document) and it doesn't arrive, contact the sender and the USPIS immediately.

By implementing these strategies, you can significantly reduce your risk of mail theft and protect your personal information.

What to do if your mail is stolen?

If mail has been stolen, you should report it to the **United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)**. This is the federal law enforcement arm of the USPS responsible for protecting the mail system.

Here's how you can report it:

- Online: Visit the USPIS website at www.uspis.gov/report and select "Mail Theft" to file a report.
- By Phone: Call the USPIS at 1-877-876-2455.
- Through the USPS: You can also initiate a report through the main USPS "Email Us" page, selecting "Theft of Mail" as the reason for your inquiry. While this often routes to the USPIS, going directly to their site is usually the most direct method for theft.

Important tips when reporting:

- Provide as much detail as possible: Include the date and time you noticed the theft, a description of what was stolen, and any other relevant information.
- Keep records: Save any tracking numbers, mailing receipts, or other documents related to the stolen mail.
- Be aware of scams: The USPIS also investigates mail fraud, so be cautious of any suspicious emails or texts claiming to be from the USPS.

Your report helps the Post Office identify patterns and problem areas, which can lead to investigations and potentially prevent further incidents.

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