

## USING SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

Preventing mail theft and catching mailbox thieves can be easy with a security camera, especially if you suspect there is a mail thief in your neighborhood.

If you have a home security camera system ensure it captures activity at your front door and mailbox.

With a surveillance camera, you can obtain footage of any suspicious activity near your mailbox 24/7. The camera system should monitor both your mailbox and porch, where packages are often found missing.

**If you suspect mail thieves, view your camera footage and save the video. Alert your local Postal Inspectors.**

Video surveillance can help in preventing crimes and catching bad guys.

For more tips you can use, visit this website: <https://www.uspis.gov/>

**If you see a mail thief at work, or if you believe your mail was stolen, call the Postal Inspectors at (877) 876-2455 or [www.USPIS.gov](http://www.USPIS.gov)**

**For emergencies  
call 9-1-1 or  
(510) 777-3211  
DO NOT HANG UP!**

The Oakland Police Department encourages you and your neighbors to form a Neighborhood Watch group on your block.

Neighborhood Watch is a partnership between neighbors and OPD to improve safety and prevent crime.

Police Services Technicians, represent the Oakland Police Department at Neighborhood Watch meetings.

For more information and to schedule a meeting contact: for BFO I, PST Brian Cassidy at (510) 238-6200 or [bcassidy@oaklandca.gov](mailto:bcassidy@oaklandca.gov)

For BFO II contact, PST Marlon V. Guzmán at (510) 238-4523 or [mguzman3@oaklandca.gov](mailto:mguzman3@oaklandca.gov)

Or visit, [www.oaklandca.gov/resources/set-up-a-neighborhood-watch](http://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/set-up-a-neighborhood-watch)



Neighborhood Services Section  
250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 6303  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone: (510) 986-2715  
Email: [NSDAdmin@oaklandca.gov](mailto:NSDAdmin@oaklandca.gov)

TF-3528

## PREVENTING MAIL THEFT



**Oakland Police Department  
455 7th Street  
Oakland, CA 94607**

**THERE HAS BEEN  
AN INCREASE IN  
MAIL AND PACKAGE THEFT  
IN YOUR NEIGHBOHOOD**

## WHAT IS MAIL THEFT?

### Mail Theft is a Federal Offense.

**If you see a mail thief at work, or if you believe your mail was stolen, call the Postal Inspectors at (877) 876-2455 or [www.USPIS.gov](http://www.USPIS.gov)**

Mail theft is the stealing and intercepting of any piece of a United States mail, including letters, postal cards, packages, bags, identity information, or any other article or documents. Refer to U.S. Code § 1708 to learn more.

### What is the penalty for Mail theft?

In the US, individuals found guilty of mail theft can be fined up to \$250,000 or imprisoned for a period up to five years or both.

### What you can do to protect your mail from thieves:

- Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. Don't leave mail in your mailbox overnight.
- If you don't receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency **immediately**.
- If you change your address, immediately notify your Post Office and everyone with whom you do business via mail.

- Inform your Post Office when you'll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.
- Consult with your local Postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes, including the availability of locked centralized or curbside mailboxes.
- Upgrade your mailbox. There are also more advanced anti-theft mailboxes with a special locking system to secure your letters and identity information.
- Do not use the mail box flag. A mailbox flag signals that something is inside which needs picking up by either you or your carrier. Postal carriers rarely raise flags themselves after they've delivered your mail but thieves may take notice of the upright flag you've put up: a raised flag signals an opportunity for mail theft.
- **NEVER send cash in the mail!**
- Consider starting or joining a Neighborhood Watch program. By exchanging, contact information, work and vacation schedules with trusted friends and neighbors, you can look out for each other.

**If you see a mail thief at work, or if you believe your mail was stolen, call the Postal Inspectors at (877) 876-2455 or [www.USPIS.gov](http://www.USPIS.gov)**

## PREVENTING PACKAGE THEFT

- If possible, have your packages delivered to your work.
- Schedule deliveries for times you will be home.
- Alert a trusted neighbor that you are expecting a package and ask them to look out for it.
- Require a signature.
- Consider using a smart locker.
- Track your package.
- Add delivery instructions to keep packages off your front porch.
- Designate a secured location as a package drop off point.
- Make sure drop off location is not visible from street.
- Pick up packages immediately.
- Post a warning sign that states your porch and mail box are under surveillance.

Visit your delivery company's website and the internet, for additional theft prevention suggestions.

To report Non-Emergencies, you can call (510) 777-3333, or to file a report on line, visit the Oakland Police Department website.

**Immediately report any crimes in progress or suspicious activity to 9-1-1 or by cell phone to (510) 777-3211**