

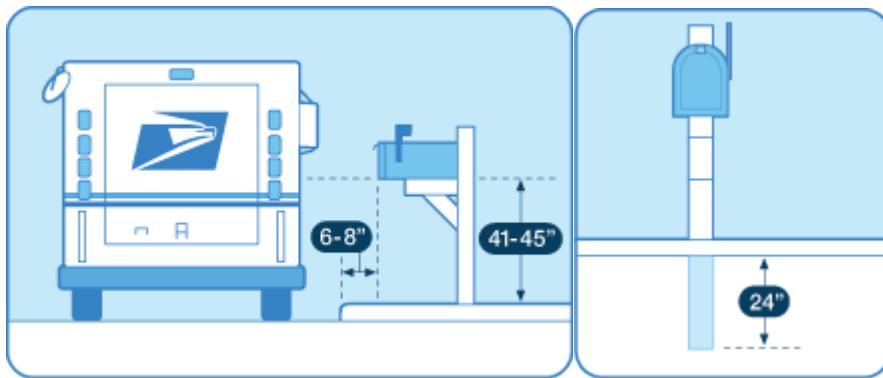


# Mailbox Guidelines

## 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. Your local postmaster must approve the location of your mailbox. Put a roadside mailbox where a carrier can 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.



If you're mounting a curbside mailbox on a post near the street, the support should be secure and safe. The best supports are designed to bend or fall away if a car hits them.

The Federal Highway Administration recommends...

- a wooden mailbox support no bigger than 4" x 4".
- a 2"-diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe.

Bury your post no more than 24" deep, so it can give way in an accident. Don't use potentially dangerous supports, such as...

- heavy metal pipes.
- concrete posts.
- farm equipment, such as milk cans filled with concrete.

In areas with lots of snow, we suggest a semi-arch or extended arm-type support. That way, snowplows will be able to sweep under without knocking it down. Your mailbox takes a serious beating from the weather, especially in the winter. We suggest a routine mailbox check-up every spring. You might just need to...

- Replace loose hinges on the door.
- Repaint rusty or peeling parts.
- Remount the post, if it's loose.
- Replace missing or faded house numbers.

And year-round keep obstructions away from your mailbox. Your carrier may not deliver your mail if there's a car, shrub, snowdrift, or unfriendly dog in front of it.