

## MAIL THEFT PREVENTION

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You may know why people are stealing your packages, but why are they stealing your mail? Your mail contains many forms of personal information, and many of us receive checks, bank statements and credit card offers daily. This year many people have also received stimulus or unemployment checks/EDD cards through the mail. Make sure to pay special attention to your mail when you are scheduled to receive payments. To prevent identity theft, crosscut or confetti shred everything that contains your personal information.

Here are some more important tips to help prevent mail theft:

- Sign up for informed delivery with USPS
  - <http://informeddelivery.usps.com>
- Collect your mail and your packages as soon as possible; as close to delivery as you can
- Request a signature for deliveries, schedule a delivery date and time, or consider asking a trusted neighbor, family member or friend to accept packages on your behalf
- Use tracking numbers and delivery notifications to track your mail and packages
- Use a mailbox sensor to notify you when your mailbox has been accessed
- Replace your standard mailbox with one that has locks
- Deposit outgoing mail inside the post office
- When you are missing important mail, contact the sender immediately
- Choose paperless options whenever possible, especially for financial transactions
- Keep tabs on all your expenditures by setting up alerts with your bank and credit card companies
- Reschedule a delivery or ask for a mail hold when you are out of town
- Rent a PO box or have deliveries sent to a locker or other locations where deliveries are monitored and secured
- Notify the Police Department immediately if you see a crime in progress
  - Be aware that criminals have been known to pose as delivery people wearing different clothing, including orange or yellow vests to blend in. They often follow mail or delivery trucks to go through mailboxes.

If you believe you are a victim of a theft, report it to the Irvine Police Department immediately by calling (949)724-7200.

For more information on crime prevention and personal safety, please visit [CrimePrevention.IrvinePD.org](http://CrimePrevention.IrvinePD.org).