

Take Care of Mail While on Vacation

Now that summer is here, are you and your family planning a vacation? If so, you'll want to make sure that your mail is handled properly. If you have a trusted neighbor who will check your mailbox each day, that's good. You know it'll be waiting for you upon your return.

However, if you don't want your neighbor to be responsible for your mail, you'll want to put it "on hold." This can be done for a period of up to 30 days. Fill out a "hold mail" form and return it to your local Post Office. Or, you can go to www.usps.com and complete your request online. You can indicate on the form the day/date you want redelivery to start (including all your back mail) or call 1-800-ASK-USPS when you return for redelivery of the held mail. Customers who go to their local Post Office to pick up their hold mail could experience delays because the letter carrier who has been holding your mail is on the mail route and is not available to locate your hold mail. It is more efficient and accurate for your letter carrier to deliver all of your accumulated mail upon your return.

Customers also have the option of utilizing the Postal Service's Premium Forwarding Service. This allows for the temporary forwarding of all mail for a weekly fee of \$13.95. All of your mail (including advertising mail) will be shipped via USPS Priority Mail to your temporary or vacation address. You can apply for Premium Forwarding Service at your local Post office.

Whatever you do, don't let mail pile up in your mailbox!

Because so many of our residents are here for only part of the year, departing for the summer months, sometimes those who remain find that their delivery of the weekly Red Plum advertising supplement has been temporarily stopped. If you find that you are not receiving the Red Plum supplement and want it, please call the USPS customer service phone line at 800-275-8777 and ask to speak with the delivery unit for your zip code. If you move to a new address and are not receiving the Red Plum advertising supplement, contact Red Plum at 888-241-6760 to initiate delivery.

For more information about purchasing stamps, stamps by mail, postal regulations, a free subscription to USA Philatelic magazine, Post Office events, the location of the nearest postal store or contract unit, or for answers to your specific Postal Service questions, contact USPS at 1-800-275-8777, or visit www.usps.com.

To schedule a presentation for your community, club or group on how the Postal Service brings the Post Office to your home or office computer, call 239-573-9638.