



Package Theft

Criminals will steal first, and see if it has value later. We must all try to remove the OPPORTUNITY that a thief needs to make you a victim. If someone is driving around your neighborhood looking for that opportunity, think of things they might be able to steal. A bicycle left outside, lawn equipment left lying around, open garage doors, your outgoing bills in the mailbox (your checks have the routing number and account number on them!), and delivered PACKAGES/BOXES on the front door step! Some package thieves operate by following courier trucks around and immediately stealing packages after drop off. The longer you package sits, the more likely they are to be taken. Here are some tips to prevent someone from stealing your packages:

- If ordering from a store, request delivery to the local store and pick it up there.
- Purchase a “porch lock box”.
- Have the package delivered to a store that offers “delivery lockers.”
- Have the package delivered to your work address.
- Schedule the delivery for a day when you know you will be home.
- Utilize the delivery options given by courier companies, including:
 1. Have item delivered to their local branch/store
 2. Vacation hold if you are going to be out of town
 3. Special delivery “time window” when you will physically be home
 4. Email or text notification of delivery to let you know that it is sitting there
 5. Signature receipt for confirmation
- Do not leave a note on the door telling the courier to leave the package! This also tells a potential burglar that you are not at home!
- Have video surveillance of the front porch/entry. Also have a sign stating that you have video surveillance.
- Consider new security products that have a camera/intercom system (video doorbell) built in them. After someone rings your doorbell, the camera comes on and you get a notification on your smartphone. You can have a conversation with the person at the door and not even be home (they don’t have to know that)!
- Get your neighborhood involved in an active Neighborhood Watch.
- Have a trusted neighbor pick up the package and keep it until you get home.
- Conversely, if you see a package on your neighbor’s door step, call them. Let them know that you can hold on to it for them until they get home.
- If you see something, say something. Be alert for suspicious activity. Call 911 for emergencies or the Dispatch non-emergency number (205) 822-5300. Have a description of any suspicious people, vehicles, direction of travel, anything that might be useful for a responding Officer to be looking for.