



Mount Prospect Police Department



Crime Prevention Tips

Package Theft Prevention

Are you expecting a package delivery today? Package theft tends to increase during the holiday season as residents purchase more goods that are shipped to their homes, but it can happen any time of the year. Many of these crimes occur during daylight hours while you're away. Thieves are known to target a home after a delivery is made. They often follow or watch for delivery trucks. Many of these incidents are crimes of opportunity. An offender may not intend to target a particular home, but walks or drives by an area and sees an easy target where something of perceived value can be quickly taken without notice. Not only is an unattended package that is visible from the street vulnerable to theft, but it may indicate that no one is home, making the home a possible target for burglary.

TIPS

Reduce the chances of having your packages stolen by following these safety tips throughout the year:

- ✓ Choose a shipping option that requires a signature
- ✓ Track delivery status online and set up email or text notifications
- ✓ Ship your package to a location where someone you know will be available to receive it: work, relatives, neighbors, or friend's home. If you are going on vacation, place deliveries on hold until you return
- ✓ Consider using other delivery options that are available. Retailers and shipping companies may deliver to other secured locations including lockers or allow you to pick up at the retail store or package carrier.
- ✓ If you frequently receive deliveries to your residence, consider purchasing a locking parcel delivery box that can be bolted down or secured.
- ✓ If there are no other options, provide specific instructions about where the package should be left on your property. Choose a location that conceals the item, so that it can't be seen by people walking or driving in the area.



Neighborhood Awareness for Package Thefts:

- ✓ A suspicious person standing in front of a residence on a cell phone.
- ✓ Vehicles circling a neighborhood and/or following delivery trucks.
- ✓ Suspicious persons attempting to gain entry into a condo or apartment complex by posing as a delivery person.
- ✓ If you see something suspicious say something- immediately call 911 to report package theft to the Mount Prospect Police Department.