



PACKAGE THEFT PREVENTION

A CRIME OF OPPORTUNITY

Package thefts are crimes of opportunity. The Asheville Police Department would like to remind citizens to take extra care this time of year when having mail and packages delivered to their residence. Package thefts from doorsteps and front porches during the day usually increase between the months of October and January. There are steps you can take to be proactive in keeping your package safe from theft.

PACKAGE THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

- Encourage family and neighbors to pick up packages as soon as possible as after they are delivered.
- Track your packages. Try to be present at the time of delivery. Many mail carriers allow you to track your shipment online:

FedEx: <http://www.fedex.com/>
UPS: <http://www.ups.com/>
USPS: <https://www.usps.com/>
DHL: <http://www.dhl.com/>
- Be neighborly. If you can't pick up your mail ask a neighbor to do it for you. The U.S. Postal Service can also hold your mail if you travel during the holidays.

Always report any suspicious activity immediately to the Asheville Police Department. Call 911 for emergencies or call our non-emergency number, 828.252.1110.



Package Theft Prevention

Asheville Police Department Crime Prevention Unit Information Bulletin
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ASHEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

100 Court Plaza
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Package theft is a common occurrence in the city of Asheville. This type of crime tends to increase during holiday months as residents purchase more goods that are shipped to their homes. 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. On occasion we hear about thieves who trail a delivery truck, stealing packages as they are dropped off. Not only is an unintended 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.

There are a number of delivery options available to the consumer that can help reduce package theft. Some options to consider:

- Ship your package to a location where someone you know will be available to receive it, which may include your work address or a relative, neighbor, or friend's home. Some shipping companies will allow you to choose a preferred time and date as well as to change locations when the package is in route.
- Require a signature for deliveries.
- Track your package and request an email, text, or other alert about the status of delivery.
- Arrange to pick up packages at the carrier or the retail establishment.
- 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.
- Certain retailers deliver to lockers or other secured locations. Consider using these services when they are offered.
- If you are going on vacation, place deliveries on hold until you return from your trip.
- As a good neighbor, be alert and report all crime and suspicious activity. If you see a package being stolen from a neighbor's home, call 9-1-1. Neighbors are encouraged to call suspicious activity to the police by calling 9-1-1 for immediate threats to life or property or the non-emergency number to the police at 828-252-1110.
- Report package theft to the police at 828-252-1110 or visit www.ashevilenc.gov/ for more crime prevention tips.