



KNOX COUNTY ENGINEER

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Mailbox Installation Guidelines

The following is a summary of mailbox installation and placement recommendations from the U.S. Postal Service & Federal Highway Administration. Generally, mailboxes identify your address for not only the letter carrier, but also emergency services and other service providers. Make sure to place your house or apartment number on both sides of your mailbox in a contrasting color.

- Mailboxes should be 41" to 45" from the road surface to the bottom of the mailbox.
- Place your mailbox a minimum of 12" back from the road edge.
- Use a 4" x 4" wooden support or a 2" diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe. (The best mailbox supports are stable but bend or fall away if a vehicle strikes them.)
- Avoid potentially dangerous supports, like heavy metal pipes, concrete posts, or any unyielding materials (farm equipment, concrete filled containers, brick pillars, etc.).
- Bury the post no more than 24" deep.

CALL OUPS BEFORE YOU DIG: 1-800-362-2764 or 811

Notably, in areas where snow removal is common, it is suggested to use a semi-arch or extended arm type of support, which allows snow plows to sweep near or under mailboxes decreasing the risk of damage. Furthermore, plastic mailboxes are more prone to damage due to the oversized dimensions and the brittle nature of the plastic in extreme cold temperatures. Please consider this before purchasing a mailbox.

