



# POSTAL NEWS

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## **POPULAR NEW BOXES DEFY GRAVITY; FLYING FROM POST OFFICES**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Postal Service provides customers with quick, easy, convenient ways for sending holiday gifts this season. Postal officials expect that many travelers will make their journeys less complicated by mailing gifts ahead – saving space in their vehicles, and time in airport security lines. Using Priority Mail Flat-Rate Boxes, customers will be able to mail domestic packages – regardless of the parcels' weight or destination – for just \$7.70 each.

The new boxes don't have to be weighed, and there are no zone chart or rate calculations required. The concept is the same as the popular Priority Mail Flat-Rate Envelope, which costs \$3.85 to mail, but the boxes are much larger. A bright red circular seal appears on every side, and complete instructions are printed right on the box. Local Post Offices provide Priority Mail Flat-Rate Boxes (and other Priority and Express Mail containers) free-of-charge, customers then fill them and apply postage.

Customers can get the value of Priority Mail in two convenient shapes at one consistent price. "Services that are easy to access and simple to use provide real value for our customers," said Stephen M. Kearney, Vice President of Pricing and Classification for the U.S. Postal Service.

The Priority Mail Flat-Rate Boxes are available in two shapes: 11-7/8 inches x 3-3/8 inches x 13-5/8 inches (ideal for garments, board games, books and other relatively thin items) and 11 inches x 8-1/2 inches x 5-1/2 inches (perfect for shoes, model cars and taller items).

Knowing the \$7.70 price in advance helps customers ship packages quickly and easily, making the boxes very convenient. Paying the flat-rate Priority Mail box postage also is simple and convenient. Customers can also affix two \$3.85 Jefferson Memorial stamps, use postage meter indicia or any combination of U.S. postage stamps.

For the ultimate in ease, customers can use Click-N-Ship, offered online through [USPS.com](http://USPS.com), print a shipping label paying the \$7.70 postage, and use Carrier Pickup online

notification to let their Post Office know they have a package to be collected when their letter carrier delivers their mail the following day.

Because mail for military personnel overseas is handled as domestic mail when it is addressed to an APO or FPO address, Priority Mail Flat-Rate Boxes make great sturdy care packages. While the recommended deadlines for timely delivery of holiday mail to overseas military addresses has passed, these boxes can hold pounds and pounds of non-perishable treats.

“The new flat-rate box options for Priority Mail are as simple as one-two-three,” offered Kearney. “One consistent price, two conveniently-sized boxes, and three words that sum it all up – Quick, Easy, Convenient.”

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Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail.

It is an independent federal agency that visits 142 million homes and businesses every day and is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of \$69 billion, it is the world’s leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The U.S. Postal

Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world’s mail volume—some 206 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year—and serves seven million customers each day at its 40,000 retail locations nationwide.