



# POSTAL NEWS

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## **LOG ON – AND STEP INTO A POST OFFICE**

### ***New national retailers increase gift card options of online postal services***

Washington, D.C. – Gift cards from nine new retailers add to a wide array of online options more than 21 million savvy consumers take advantage of every day at **usps.com**.

Almost anything that can be done at a Post Office can be done online at **usps.com** at a time that is convenient to the consumer, seven days a week, 24-hours-a-day: ship a package, purchase stamps, hold mail, schedule a carrier pick up, and design and print greeting cards. There are more than two dozen services available through the Postal Service website.

Consumers today can purchase gift cards from nine new retailers: AMC Theatres, Blockbuster, Foot Locker, Marriott hotels, Old Navy, Olive Garden, SpaWish, The Sharper Image and Toys R Us. Within the next 30 days, the list of retailers expands again to include Macy's, Sports Authority, Red Lobster, Bass Pro and The GAP, bringing to 21 the number of retailers offering gift cards through **usps.com's** NetPost™ series.

What makes the gift card feature unique, though, is the ability to mail the gift card with a personalized greeting card – and adding a favorite stamp.

"It's never been easier to do business with the United States Postal Service. Log on and step into a Post Office," said Michael T. Spates, acting consumer advocate and vice president, consumer affairs. "Skip the trip. Online postal services are quick, easy and convenient."

The website is designed with the customer in mind. It's easy to navigate. Each section is clearly labeled and guides the customer step-by-step. The site is completely secure and protected.

But gift cards and greeting cards aren't the only transactions available to postal customers – individuals and business owners.

More than 256 million customers took advantage of the services offered at **usps.com** last year. About 53,000 new business customers signed up for Click-N-Ship in January. One of the more popular features of the site, Click-N-Ship allows customers to print labels for packages with or without postage at no additional charge.

More than 167,000 customers use Mailing Online, a powerful printing and mailing service combining the speed of the Internet with the effectiveness of traditional mail. Mailing Online offers an array of printing and mailing options. Customers upload a document and the Postal Service handles the printing and mailing.

And Carrier Pickup Online Notification requests reached the 6 million mark this week.

"Today's world is a busy place. If our customers don't have the time to go to a Post Office, we bring the Post Office to them with **usps.com**," Spates said.

Consumers without access to a computer can call 1-800-ASK-USPS for information about postal services.

Since 1775, the 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 more than \$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 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 7 million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide.