



POSTAL NEWS

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Shop Till You Drop – at the Post Office?

Purchase Discounted Merchandise While Shipping Packages, Buying Stamps

WASHINGTON — 'Tis the season for graduations, weddings and birthdays. So get ready for all those summer gift-giving occasions by stocking up on U.S.P.S.-branded products now on sale in Post Office lobbies across the country.

Everyone can use a little help in the current economy. This month, select in-stock items such as matted and framed artwork, plush toys and stationery are available at a 30 percent discount.

Why has the Postal Service become the bearer of these discounted delights? To better meet its customers' needs. The Postal Service is updating the merchandise it offers in Post Office lobbies. Later this fall, customers will find enhanced product displays and a different mix of merchandise. The categories of planned merchandise include:

- Mailing and shipping supplies, such as ReadyPost boxes, mailers, tape and bubble wrap.
- Mail-related merchandise, such as scales and stamp dispensers.
- U.S. Postal Service-branded and promotional merchandise, such as passport holders and seasonal products.
- Philatelic products, including stamp yearbooks, stamped postal cards and stationery.

"This improvement is about simplifying the Postal Service's product offerings and focusing on our core products to satisfy customers' mailing and shipping needs," said Tim Healy, vice president, Retail Products and Services.

Discounts on select Postal Service-branded items are available until August, when discontinued items will be removed from sale.

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An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 149 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes, six days a week. It has 34,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services, not tax dollars, to pay for operating expenses. Named the Most Trusted Government Agency five consecutive years by the Ponemon Institute, the Postal Service has annual revenue of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail. To learn about the history of the Postal Service visit the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum: www.postalmuseum.si.edu.