Porch piracy prevention: 6 simple steps to secure your packages.



Online shopping makes life easier (especially during the holiday season), but it also comes with risks. One of the most common? Porch piracy.

Porch piracy happens when someone steals a package that's been delivered to your home before you've had a chance to bring it inside. And with millions of packages shipped daily, thieves see this as an easy opportunity. Fortunately, our experts are sharing a few smart steps to help you protect your deliveries … and your peace of mind.

How to prevent porch piracy

Want to make your home less appealing to package thieves? Try these practical prevention tips:

- **Keep your porch well-lit.** Motion-activated lighting, as well as lights on a timer, can discourage someone from approaching your porch. Especially in the dark.
- **Install a video doorbell or security camera.** Visible security measures can deter thieves and provide evidence if something goes missing.
- **Use package tracking.** Whenever you place an order, sign up for text and/or email alerts. That way, you'll know exactly when to expect your package, and you'll be notified when it actually arrives.
- **Schedule deliveries for when you're home.** If the carrier lets you choose a delivery window, try to line it up with a time you'll be available.
- **Request a signature.** For valuable deliveries, consider requiring a signature at drop-off to ensure your package isn't left unattended.
- **Ask a neighbor for help.** If you know you'll be away when an important package is delivered, ask

a reliable neighbor to grab it for you.
- **Ship to a secure location.** If you still don't feel comfortable having packages shipped to your home, consider having them delivered to your workplace, a trusted friend or family member's house, or a package locker (like Amazon Hub or UPS Access Point).

What to do if a package is stolen

Even with precautions, porch piracy can still happen. If you suspect a package has been taken:

- **Double check.** Look closely around your porch, garage, or bushes. And check your mailbox, in case the package fits there.
- **Review security footage.** If you have a doorbell camera or other security device, check the footage for suspicious activity.
- **Ask neighbors.** Sometimes deliveries are left at the wrong address. Text your closest neighbors or send a message in your neighborhood group chat.
- **Contact the retailer.** Many retailers have policies for stolen packages and may offer a refund or replacement.
- **File a claim with the carrier.** Carriers like UPS, FedEx, and USPS often allow you to report stolen packages for investigation.
- **File a police report.** If it's a high-value package or you need documentation for an insurance claim, call your local non-emergency number.

Can insurance help?

In some cases, homeowners or renters insurance may cover stolen packages. If the value of the stolen items is significant, reach out to your insurance agent to see if filing a claim makes sense.

Protect your deliveries year-round

While porch piracy often spikes around the holidays, it can happen anytime. By taking a few extra precautions and knowing what steps to take if theft occurs, you can shop online with confidence.

Need help understanding how your insurance may protect you from package theft or other losses? Connect with your local, independent agent today.

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