



# Stop porch pirates: practical tips to prevent stolen packages

‘Tis the shopping online season! A “porch pirates” time to shine.

Package theft is an ongoing problem. Thieves have gotten bolder as ordering online has grown in popularity. Their opportunities only increase around the holiday season.

## Consider these solutions so your package makes it off the porch and into *your* home.

### 1. Ship it to work.

Keep your package off the porch all together. If your company allows, consider shipping your packages to your workplace instead of your home.

### 2. Enlist a neighbor’s help.

Do you have a neighbor or a friend that’s usually home? If so, see if they can wait for your package or keep an eye out for it.

### 3. Require a signature.

Consider requesting a signature for your package to be dropped off. That way, your package won’t be left on your porch exposed to potential thieves.

### 5. Take advantage of alternative delivery options and alerts.

FedEx, the U.S. Postal Service and UPS all have alternative pickup and delivery options available. Visit their websites to explore your options and update your delivery preferences. You can also sign up for delivery alerts to track your package and stay up-to-date on delivery times.

### 7. Keep your porch clear and visible.

It may seem counter-intuitive, but if a thief has no place to hide, they’re less likely to take the risk of going up to your porch in the first place.

### 9. Find strength in numbers.

Neighborhood groups on social media or community apps like Nextdoor can provide your neighborhood a system for reporting suspicious activity to each other.

### 10. Invest in a porch lockbox

Many companies now manufacture lockboxes specifically designed for receiving packages. When you order an item online, you’ll give instructions for the delivery driver to open your porch lockbox. Some have a slot for drivers to drop small items into but require a key to open. Others require a code that you can provide for the delivery driver.