



ROSELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Office of Chief Brian K. Barnes, CPM

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Tips to Prevent “Porch Pirates” from Ruining the Holidays

As the holiday season comes upon us, and with the rise of online retail giants like Amazon, it has become important to make an effort to protect yourself from “*Porch Pirates*.” “Thefts of packages from front porches are a problem during the holiday season,” Roselle Police Chief Brian K. Barnes advises residents. “As the popularity of online shopping increases, we are also seeing these thefts increase.”

Here are some tips on how to prevent package theft and deter would-be thieves:

- ✓ **Track your package**
- ✓ **Use an Amazon Locker** – when you order online, request a code, and it will be sent to your phone. Punch the code in at the locker, and then get your package. Sending packages back is safe as well. Local Amazon lockers are available at:

555 E 1st Ave., Roselle
578 W. Westfield Ave., Roselle Park
711 E 1st Ave, Suite 13, Roselle
1275 Chestnut St., Roselle
117 W. St. Georges Ave., Linden
174 Elmora Ave., Elizabeth
528 N Wood Ave., Linden
2309 E Edgar Rod., Linden

(See Amazon for more locations)

- ✓ **Install Video Doorbells like Ring or Nest**
- ✓ **Install Exterior Surveillance Cameras**

- ✓ **Use an Outdoor Lockbox** – there are several types sold in-stores and online and come in various sizes.
- ✓ **Use a Delivery App** - FedEx and UPS have apps that allow users to reschedule and reroute packages in real time. The **UPS My Choice** feature and **FedEx delivery Manager** allow customers to make sure someone is home when the package arrives or even direct packages to certain locations (work or a neighbor).
- ✓ **Alternate Delivery Address** - Have a package delivered to work or a neighbor or ask a neighbor to watch out for your anticipated deliveries.
- ✓ **Signatures** - Choose a shipping option that requires you to sign for delivery or track the delivery status online so you can try to be home when the package arrives.

If an item was delivered and you did not receive it, report the theft or loss immediately to the original shipping company.

If your package was stolen, call the police.