Protect Yourself Against Mail & Package Theft

If your mail is stolen, criminals can use it to gain access to your personal information and commit other crimes, including:

- ***Counterfeit checks*** - Criminals can use the information on a check to create a fraudulent check, or alter the check they obtained and attempt to cash or deposit it
- ***Identity Theft*** - Your personal information including name, date of birth, address, social security number, & contact information could be used to impersonate you, and even open accounts in your name. For more information on ID theft and prevention, please visit www.idtheft.gov
- ***Account fraud*** - Your banking and credit card information could be used to make fraudulent purchases

Here are steps you can take to ensure your mail arrives safely at its destination!

Promptly collect mail and packages
- Do not leave letters and packages in your mailbox or at your door for any length of time.
- If you cannot be home to receive a package, make another arrangement or use the USPS Hold Mail Service.
- When shipping packages, use the Hold for Pickup option, and the recipient can collect the package at their local post office.
- If you do not receive a check, credit card, or other valuable mail you are expecting, contact the sender as soon as possible and inquire about it.

Deposit mail close to pick-up time
- Deposit outgoing mail into USPS blue collection boxes before the last collection or inside your local post office.

Do not send cash
- Be careful about what you send and do not send cash in the mail! Talk to a banker about more secure ways to send funds.

File a change of address
- If you move, make sure you file a change of address with the Postal Service as well as notify your financial institutions of your new address.

Go paperless and shred confidential documents
- Switch to paperless billing and statements online to reduce the amount of sensitive information you receive in the mail. Speak to a banker today on how to make the switch!
- If you have documents that contain personal or confidential information, shred them before throwing them out.

Review your consumer credit reports annually
- Check for accounts you didn't open and other signs of fraud.
- You have access to one free credit report yearly from each of the three major credit reporting agencies.

Peoples Bank

peoplesbank-wa.com/online-security