
Is your mailbox a potentially lethal weapon?

Mailboxes of unapproved materials and/or supports that are so strong or massive that they do not yield when hit have annually caused fatalities and injuries in the State of Michigan. Some of these accidents resulted in lawsuits against the owners.

We're concerned about this problem and hope that by increasing awareness, we can work together to improve traffic safety in St. Joseph County.

We hope you'll use this checklist included in this brochure to make sure your mailbox installation does not pose a hazard to the motoring public or a liability risk to you.

For more information:

- ❖ Mailbox construction and height – call your local post office.
- ❖ Mailbox supports and placement and mailbox policy – call us or visit our office:

Hours

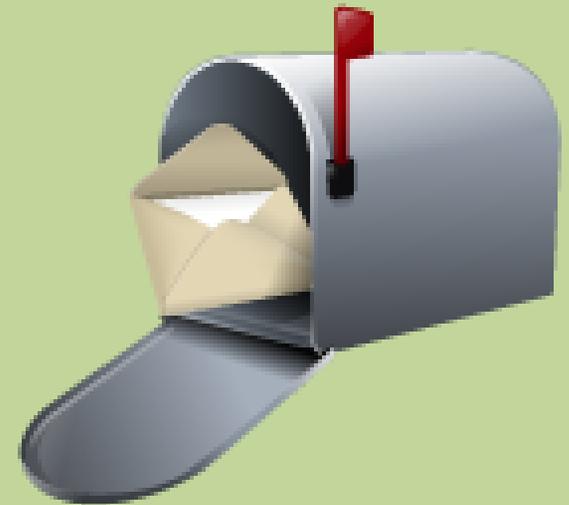
Monday - Thursday
6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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Guidelines for MAILBOXES AND SUPPORTS

Structure and Location

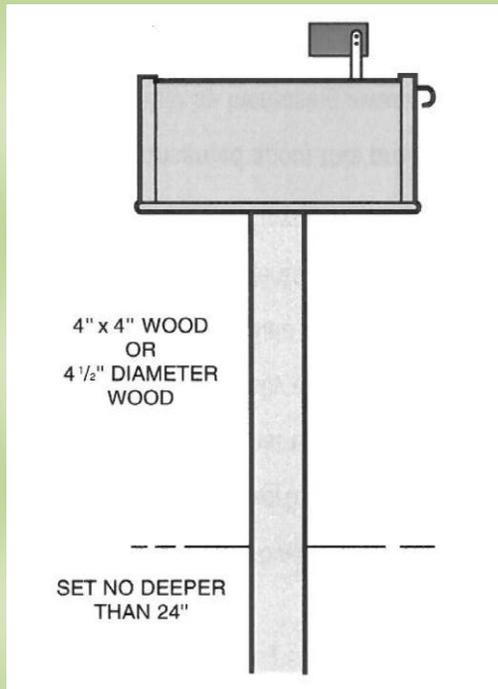


St. Joseph County
Road Commission
269-467-6393
www.stjoeroads.com

Mailbox and mailbox support checklist

Location

- Mailbox is in the direction of the carriers' route of travel, except on one-way streets.
- Mailbox height is between 41 inches and 45 inches above the road surface.
- Mailbox face is between 6 inches and 10 inches from the curb.
- Mailbox near the intersection is no closer than 100 feet from the intersecting road.



Structure

- Mailbox is of light steel, aluminum or plastic construction that meets U.S. Postal Service requirements.
- No more than two mailboxes are mounted on a single support structure.
- Mailbox post no bigger than a 4-inch x 4-inch wood post or a 2" diameter standard-strength steel or aluminum pipe (see diagrams below).
- Potentially dangerous supports include: heavy metal pipes, concrete posts, farm equipment, such as milk cans filled with cement.
- Mailbox post is embedded no more than 24 inches into the ground.
- Mailbox post is not fitted with an anchor plate.
- Mailbox is attached to the post well enough to prevent separation if either box or post is struck by a vehicle.
- Minimum spacing between the centers of grouped support posts is three-fourths the portion of the posts' height that is above the ground.

If your mailbox location or structure is not in compliance with the regulations cited in the checklist, make adjustments now. Don't let your mailbox or post be an accident waiting to happen. If you have questions, call your local post office.

The Road Commission is authorized to remove mailboxes or posts that do not meet requirements and are, therefore, hazardous to the public. The owners will be notified and given between 24 hours and 30 days to conform to standards, depending upon the degree of hazard. If unacceptable installations are not removed within the specified time, the Road commission will handle removal at the owners' expense, as provided for by Act 368, Public Acts of 1925, as amended.

