

Preventing Porch Pirates

FROM TARGETING YOUR HOME



Porch pirates are a growing problem, resulting in thousands of stolen packages and millions of dollars in lost merchandise each year. Here are some details you need to know to protect yourself and your packages from these plunderers.



Who are Porch Pirates?

- The term “porch pirates” refers to thieves who steal packages from people’s porches and doorsteps.
- Because more people have goods delivered to their homes, there has been an increase in the number of packages left on people’s porches and doorsteps during the day.
- The rise of online merchants, such as Amazon, has been linked to the rise in these types of crimes.
- More than 23 million Americans report having packages stolen from their front doors each year.

How Porch Pirates Plunder



- Porch pirates look for homes they consider to be soft targets.
- Often, porch pirates will watch homes on a particular block to determine which ones receive frequent packages and which of those are unoccupied during the day.
- Once they identify a target, they will simply wait until a delivery person leaves the house, then walk right up to the front door and swipe the package.
- Most of the time, porch pirates don’t have any idea what it is they are stealing, leading to reports of coffee filters and other inexpensive items being stolen.
- Porch pirates will go through with it anyway because the crime is relatively low-risk and high-reward.



Preventing Porch Piracy

- Requiring a signature for all deliveries means your packages won’t be left on your doorstep.
- Using a delivery locker as provided by Amazon or another retailer means only you should be able to retrieve your package.
- Adding security measures such as a front door camera or motion-activated lights can help deter or catch thieves.
- Having your packages delivered to your workplace, if feasible, can ensure that you’ll be able to receive any daytime deliveries.
- If your package is scheduled to be delivered while no one’s home, see if you can reschedule it for a time when you or someone else will be.

