

# The Safety of the Mail is Everyone's Responsibility

Notice 128  
July 2025



**Your package could not be accepted for one of the following reasons:**

- Improper packaging.
- Prohibited or restricted markings and/or labels.
- Stained or leaking mailpiece.

**Contact your local Post Office™ to determine if this package is mailable.**

**Local Post Office telephone and address**



# What You Can Do to Help

## Ask Before You Mail

Many common, everyday items are classified as hazardous materials. Determining the mailability of hazardous materials requires the consideration of a number of factors and can be very challenging. Please check with your local U.S. Postal Service® officials before attempting to mail any items that could be considered hazardous. Improper mailing of hazardous materials may subject you to civil and/or criminal liability.

**Full responsibility rests with the mailer to comply with all postal and nonpostal laws and regulations regarding the mailing of hazardous materials.**

Mailers are responsible for the following:

- Knowing the physical characteristics of the hazardous materials they wish to mail.
- Ensuring that no hazardous material is mailed unless it is permitted under Postal Service™ mailing standards in the *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, International Mail Manual (IMM®), and Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail*.
- Ensuring that all Postal Service regulations are followed regarding the packaging, markings, labeling, and declaration of hazardous materials placed in the mail.

Further guidance on the packaging, marking, and mailability of hazardous materials is available from the following sources:

- USPS.com; <https://www.usps.com/ship/shipping-restrictions.htm>.
- Mailing and Shipping Solutions Center (MSSC); <https://postalpro.usps.com/solutions>.
- Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail*; <https://pe.usps.com/text/pub52/welcome.htm>.
- Pub 52 HAZMAT Search Tool; <https://pe.usps.com/HAZMAT/Index>.
- IMM (for mailings to foreign addresses, sections 135 and 136); <http://pe.usps.com/text/imm/welcome.htm>.

\*To access Publication 52, scan the QR code.



## Properly Reuse Packaging

Reused packaging and boxes are only acceptable when all markings and labels are removed or completely obliterated so that they cannot be read. Regardless of what is actually inside your package, any markings, residue of markings, or labels for hazardous or restricted materials may result in delivery delays, a package return, or removal from the mailstream. Refer to “Old Markings” in Publication 52 for more information.



## Laws That Keep Us Safe

With certain limited exceptions, the federal law in Title 18 United States Code 1716 (18 U.S.C. 1716) declares it a crime to mail anything that may kill or injure persons or harm property. Persons violating the statute may be subject to fines, imprisonment, or other severe penalties.

The Postal Service has established rules prescribing preparation and packaging conditions under which certain hazardous materials, which are not “outwardly of their own force dangerous or injurious to life, health, or property,” may be mailed. Because these rules are very limited, most hazardous materials are prohibited from mailing.

## Hazard Classes

For purposes of transportation and shipping, each hazardous material is assigned to a hazard class. The list that follows provides examples of items that are subject to mailing restrictions or prohibitions.

Hazard Classes	Examples
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<b>Class 1:</b> Explosives	Fireworks, ammunition, fuses, model rocket engines
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<b>Class 2:</b> Gases	Aerosols, air bag inflators, scuba tanks, butane, propane
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<b>Class 3:</b> Flammable Liquids	Gasoline, some paints or inks, varnishes, some cosmetics, perfumes, lighters and propane cylinders, and items containing fuel or fuel residue
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<b>Class 4:</b> Flammable Solids	Matches, signal flares
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<b>Class 5:</b> Oxidizers and Organic Peroxides	Oxidizing liquids, swimming pool chemicals, peroxides, nitrates
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<b>Class 6:</b> Toxic Materials and Infectious Substances	Arsenic, potassium cyanide, parathion, pesticides, flea collars, tear gas, irritating materials, items containing etiological agents, used sharps, used medical devices
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<b>Class 7:</b> Radioactive Materials	Scientific instruments, products requiring a radioactive warning label
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<b>Class 8:</b> Corrosives	Chlorine bleach, ammonia, batteries, drain cleaners, mercury, muriatic acid
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<b>Class 9:</b> Miscellaneous Hazardous Materials	Magnetized materials, dry ice, self-inflating lifesaving devices, lithium and lithium-ion batteries
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Just because an item is NOT on this list does not mean that the item is mailable — **Remember, it is your responsibility to ensure that articles you present for mailing comply with all Postal Service regulations.**

# Recognizing Domestic Hazardous Materials

## Prohibited

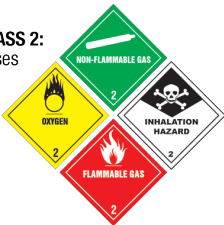
**CLASS 1:**  
Explosives



**CLASS 5:**  
Oxidizers  
and  
Organic  
Peroxides



**CLASS 2:**  
Gases



**CLASS 6:**  
Toxic  
Materials  
and  
Infectious  
Substances



**CLASS 3:**  
Flammable  
Liquids



**CLASS 7:**  
Radioactive  
Materials



**CLASS 4:**  
Flammable  
Solids



**CLASS 8:**  
Corrosives



**CLASS 9:**  
Miscellaneous  
Hazardous  
Materials



## Potentially mailable to domestic destinations\*



*\* Additional requirements in Publication 52 must also be met. Hazard class labels 5.1, 5.2, 8, and 9 must only be used in conjunction with DOT limited quantity markings and only when permitted for the applicable hazard class. For potentially mailable items to international destinations, see the IMM.*

## **Pricing and Classification Service Center**

You can get more information from your local Post Office, your local Business Mail Entry Unit, and the Pricing and Classification Service Center (PCSC), which can be contacted at:

PCSC  
90 CHURCH STREET STE 3100  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-2951  
telephone: 212-330-5300  
fax: 212-330-5320

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