

Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association

Theft of Packages

Online shopping has been taking off each year and is at it's busiest during the holiday season. Law enforcement in Wisconsin and throughout the United States has noticed a spike in thefts of delivered packages.

The following are some tips to avoid missing that long awaited delivery!

Require signature. Have packages delivered with a signature required. This ensures that the package will not be left unattended on your doorstep.

Deliver to work. If you know that you will not be at home when a package is due to arrive consider having your purchases delivered to your place of work if your workplace allows.

Delivery alerts. Sign up for delivery alerts through each delivery service's website. Most come with a tracking number that so that you can easily follow the package's location. If you have a trusted neighbor, once the package is delivered, have them retrieve it and hold onto it until you get home. Many delivery services also allow you to change the delivery date, so you may be able to change it to a day or time that you will be home.

Delivery options. Most delivery services also have alternate delivery options. FEDEX can be delivered to a local FEDEX Office location and they will hold your package for in-person pickup. UPS has options to deliver to a UPS Store, UPS Access Point location, or hold your package at the UPS Customer Center. Amazon.com has Amazon Locker locations at convenient locations throughout the city.

Leave instructions. If you must have something delivered when you are not home, leave instructions for the delivery service to place the package somewhere out of view from the street.

File a report. If you believe that someone has stolen a package, confirm that it was delivered, and then make a report with law enforcement.

Finally, please watch out for your neighbors. Call 911 immediately if you see suspicious activity—get an accurate description of the activity and/or vehicle or person. Relay that information to the 911 call-taker as soon as possible.

If you would like further information on safety during the holiday season, please speak to your local crime prevention officer.

www.wicrimeprevention.com

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