



ASOTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF M. RENZELMAN

CITY OF ASOTIN



Protect Your Packages This Holiday Season - Don't Let "The Grinch" Steal Your Deliveries!

The holiday season is a busy time for delivery services, which often means packages being left on porches and doorsteps. Unfortunately, this also attracts opportunistic modern-day grinchers who may be lurking nearby, waiting to snatch up your deliveries. Don't let your holiday spirit turn into a holiday headache! To help keep your packages safe, we offer some important safety tips.

Online Shopping Safety Tips:

- Shop from reputable websites and verify their legitimacy before making purchases.
- Use secure internet connections; avoid conducting financial transactions over public Wi-Fi networks.
- Keep your devices' security software, operating system, and browsers updated to guard against malware and hacking.
- Be cautious of phishing emails or links that may attempt to steal your personal information—always verify the sender's authenticity.
- Use strong, unique passwords for each online shopping account, and enable two-factor authentication when available.
- Review your bank and credit card statements regularly for any unauthorized transactions.
- Avoid sharing sensitive financial or personal information on social media or unsecured platforms.
- Be mindful of delivery notifications and shipping confirmations—scams often mimic legitimate messages.

Safety Tips to Protect Your Packages:

- **Track Your Deliveries:** Keep an eye on tracking information and delivery notifications. If you're expecting a package, be ready to retrieve it as soon as it arrives.
- **Use Delivery Instructions:** Consider leaving special instructions for your courier on how to securely place packages out of sight, such as behind a potted plant or in a garage if you're home.
- **Schedule Deliveries for When You're Home:** Whenever possible, time your deliveries so that you can be available to receive them in person. The last thing we want is your new holiday gadgets ending up in the Grinch's hands – or worse, his lair!
- **Invest in Security Devices:** Consider installing a doorbell camera or security cameras that monitor your porch. Not only can these deter potential thieves, but they will also provide you with helpful video evidence should an incident occur.
- **Require Signatures on Deliveries:** If it's available, opt for delivery methods that require a signature upon receipt. This ensures that packages aren't left unattended.
- **Team Up with Neighbors:** Coordinate with your neighbors during the holiday season to keep an eye on each other's packages. If you see something suspicious, don't hesitate to report it to your local authorities.

- Inspect packages immediately upon receipt and report any suspicious activity or tampering to law enforcement.
- Community Watch: Keep an eye out for suspicious characters lurking in your neighborhood. If you see a green figure trying to squeeze down chimneys or eyeing your holiday wreath, please contact your local Police Department immediately. We'd love to give him a stern talk to.
- Leave the Grinch Cookies, Not Packages: If you must leave treats on your porch, make them cookies that are definitely NOT packed with the latest gadgets or high-value items. A few stale gingerbread cookies will surely do the trick and might even make him reconsider a life of crime!

Let's work together to keep our community safe this holiday season. With just a little caution and mindfulness, we can all help prevent "Grinch-like" acts and ensure that packages arrive in the hands of their rightful owners!

Asotin Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Monte Renzelman
Chief of Police
Asotin, WA

