

Postal Pointers

America On The Move

(NAPSA)—The United States is a nation on the move. On average, U.S. citizens will move 12 times during their lives. About ten percent of the population own homes other than their primary residences. We are a nation on the go. Whether changing jobs from one part of the country to another or living in a more favorable climate until the weather in our hometown suits our liking, the United States Postal Service is with us every step of the way making sure no matter where we are our mail is there for us.

The Postal Service makes certain that those cards, letters and parcels find us, no matter how remote we've made ourselves. From the organization whose very name features the word "service," those offerings include:

Change of Address—The Postal Service provides a Mover's Guide packet which can be found in Post Office lobbies. Customers complete the enclosed form to include name, old address, new address and the date to begin mail forwarding and specify if this is a Temporary Change of Address or Permanent Change of Address.

The form can be mailed without cost, left for a carrier to be picked up or dropped off at the local Post Office. First-Class Mail will be forwarded for up to 12 months. From months 13 through 18, First-Class Mail will be returned to the sender along with the addressee's new address.

Internet Change Of Address—For those folks who don't want



to go to the Post Office, the MoversGuide Online is available at usps.com, the Post Office that never closes. Internet Change of Address provides a quick, easy, convenient way for customers to include complete, valid addresses for automated processing of their address change.

An e-mail address is necessary for this service. To prevent fraud, the Postal Service verifies identities with valid credit cards. The cards are charged a \$1 fee for the verification service. For added security, the credit card billing address must match the current address or the new address. Alternatively, online forms can be printed and mailed without cost, left for carriers to pick up or dropped at local Postal Offices.

As when submitting hard-copy change of address forms from the Mover's Guide, Internet Change of Address customers' mail will be forwarded within the timeframe outlined above.

At the start of the Spring 2005 moving season, a record seven million customers had used this online service. Since its introduction, the use of Internet Change of

Address has increased 50 percent each year compared to the previous year's total. Customers can also change their addresses by phone at 1-800-ASK-USPS.

Premium Forwarding—Available in August 2005 as a two-year test, Premium Forwarding Service is a personalized offering for sending mail from a primary residential address to a temporary address using the Postal Service's expedited two-to-three-day delivery offering, Priority Mail.

With Premium Forwarding Service, the Postal Service boxes and reships mail once a week to a temporary address for customers who are away from their primary address for at least two weeks and up to one year. There is a one-time enrollment charge of \$10, and customers are charged \$10 for each weekly shipment during the period they are enrolled. Express Mail, First-Class Mail or Priority Mail packages too large to fit inside the Premium Forwarding Service package are rerouted separately at no additional charge.

To obtain Premium Forwarding Service, customers simply complete an application at the Post Office servicing their primary address including name, address of primary residence, temporary address, contact numbers and start and end dates. Premium Forwarding Service is a temporary service, but does not replace Temporary Change of Address Service or Permanent Change of Address Service.