

Postal Pointers

Convenience Gets Consumers' Stamp Of Approval

(NAPSA)—There's good news for consumers who want to save the time and cost of a trip to the Post Office. There are a lot of new, convenient ways to purchase stamps and access other services.

It's estimated that nearly 30 percent of the U.S. Postal Service retail transactions are conducted somewhere other than a Post Office Office retail lobby.

For example, if you want to buy stamps, there are more than 56,000 supermarkets, drugstores and other retailers that now sell stamps at the checkout at the same price as at the Post Office. Automated teller machines (ATMs) at some banks and other financial institutions also sell postage stamps. Some retailers also offer a whole range of services as contract postal units or Approved Shipper locations.

Convenience is also the driving force behind providing consumers with the ability to access information and postal services online at usps.com. More than 1.2 million people visit the site every day. With Click-N-Ship service you can print postage for packages and large envelopes from your home or office computer and charge it to a debit or credit card.

The Postal Service Web site also allows you to track and confirm package delivery, put your mail on hold, look up ZIP codes, buy stamps, compare services or order supplies.



Consumers no longer have to stand in line at the Post Office to purchase stamps. For example, automated teller machines at some banks now sell postage stamps as well.

Among the newest services offered to Postal Service customers are easy-to-use Flat Rate Priority Mail boxes. The Postal Service will deliver the boxes to you for free. You print the postage and address label on your computer from usps.com, and your letter carrier will even pick it up for you.

Another plus is that there's no guessing about the weight with Flat Rate Priority Mail boxes from the Postal Service. "If it fits, it ships."

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.usps.com.