

Holiday Help

Holiday Mail Tips: Be Prepared

(NAPSA)—To put the stamp of knowledge on the holiday packages you're sending, here are some packaging tips from the experts at DHL that may help to ease your mind:

- Choose the size of the package according to its content. Understand that poorly packed boxes may collapse and overloaded ones may burst.

- Always use high-quality materials for your shipments. Consider strength, cushioning and durability when selecting shipping supplies.

- Make use of packing materials, especially to stop your package contents from moving.

- Put fragile goods in the center of a package, to ensure your items are well cushioned on all sides.

- When shipping sharp items, ensure that you fully protect the edges and points. Heavy cardboard is suitable for this. Fix the protective material securely so that it cannot be accidentally removed in transit.

- Complete the address clearly and completely, using uppercase letters when handwriting labels to improve readability.

- Do not use cellophane tape or rope to seal your shipment.

- When reusing a box, remove all labels and stickers. Make sure that the box is in good shape and not worn out.

Finally, never consider "Fragile" and "Handle With Care" labels as a substitute for careful packaging.

Delivery services such as DHL expect to see their average daily shipment volume increase signifi-



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cantly this time of year. To help deal with this increased activity during holiday peak times, DHL plans to add hundreds of daily truck routes to its regular network schedules during that time. In addition, the company has more than 4,200 convenient authorized shipping centers around the country to handle your holiday packages.

Important Dates To Remember

DHL's peak delivery day is projected to be Wednesday, December 20, when it expects to deliver the largest number of packages.

So you're not surprised at the last minute, you should remember that DHL's cutoff date for next-day service is December 21 for packages to reach their destination by December 25.

For more information, visit the carrier's Web site at www.dhl-usa.com.