

Holiday Hints

Online Postage Gives The Gift Of Time This Season

(NAPSA)—Long lines at the post office are as much of a holiday tradition as eggnog and mistletoe. But it's one tradition that won't stick around as word continues to spread about the time-saving virtues of online postage.

Using U.S. Postal Service-approved online services such as Stamps.com, computer users can print postage and send packages of any size or mail class—domestically or internationally—without setting foot outside their home or office. Customers also can take advantage of discounted delivery confirmation, online package tracking and the ability to insure packages without filling out tedious forms.

"Before signing up for the Stamps.com service, I was spending far too much time driving to and from and waiting in line at the post office," said Arnold Beland, one of 300,000 Stamps.com users as well as a successful eBay Power Seller. "Now, I can just give my letters and packages to my mail carrier, drop them into a collection box or schedule a USPS pickup."

Both consumers and small businesses find that using online postage saves money and increases their efficiency, particularly during peak mailing times like tax season or major holidays such as Christmas, Valentine's Day and Mother's Day.

In addition, recent advancements are making the technology more user-friendly. For example,



Getting postage for your holiday packages online can save trips to the post office and long waits in line.

Stamps.com customers can print a shipping label complete with postage on any sheet of 8½" x 11" paper. They also can print postage on NetStamps labels and use them just like regular stamps on postcards, envelopes or packages. For the holidays, Stamps.com has designed holiday-themed NetStamps labels.

"Postage technology is finally moving beyond the 19th century to actually join the 21st century," said Ray Boggs, vice president, small business/home office research at IDC. "With recent enhancements, consumers and small businesses can enjoy the features and functions of advanced mailing services from the comforts of home or office."

Stamps.com customers can pay as little as \$4.99 monthly to use the services, which require no initial startup costs. To learn more, you can visit the Web site at www.stamps.com/info.