



Prince William County Police

Community Crime Prevention Tip

2/1/17

Porch Pirating

When having packages delivered to your home, beware of “porch pirating” — when a thief steals delivered packages from your doorstep or porch. Thieves can follow delivery trucks, watching for prime targets. These thieves commonly strike during working hours as many homes are empty at that time.

There are many steps that you can take to reduce the chance that your deliveries will be stolen. Here are some helpful tips to prevent the theft of your package.

- Have your packages delivered to a location where someone can receive them in-person. A neighbor or relative who is usually home, for example, or your workplace if your employer allows it.
- Encourage your neighbors to watch for deliveries and agree to secure each other's packages. This includes being watchful for any stranger who is going onto porches for no apparent reason, or following delivery trucks.
- Ask the shipper to hold your package at their facility. Most offer this service.
- Track deliveries online. Many companies offer a text notification to your cell phone when a package has been delivered.
- Request a signature conformation of delivery.
- Insure valuable items.
- Provide delivery instructions. If packages will be left while you are not home, try to have them left out of sight from the street.
- Consider installing a video doorbell. Many cameras include features, such as high-definition resolution and saved images, which can help law enforcement should an incident occur. This can be especially helpful where packages are routinely delivered to people's homes and left unattended on the front stoop.
- If your package has been stolen report the theft to the Police at 703-792-6500.

If you see anyone acting suspicious, call the police. Try and get as much information as possible; suspect / vehicle descriptions, license plates, the last direction of travel and any other information that would help identify the thief.

REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO THE POLICE

Emergency: 911 * Non-Emergency: 703-792-6500 * Crime Prevention Unit: 703-792-7270