



## Understanding U.S. Postal Service Postmarks

Traditionally, a U.S. Postal Service (USPS) postmark has shown the date when mail was deposited in a mailbox or submitted at the post office counter. However, USPS recently updated its published guidance on **what a postmark date represents**.

### Information a Postmark Conveys

USPS has updated its Domestic Mail Manual to explain that a postmark date on most mail reflects the date the item is **first processed at a postal facility**, not necessarily the date it was placed in a mailbox or collected by a mail carrier.

While USPS states that its postmarking procedures have not changed, this clarification confirms that a postmark date may be later than the date an item was mailed. As a result, the postmark date may affect whether a tax return or tax payment is considered timely.

### How Postmark Dates Affect Tax Return and Payment Due Dates

According to Florida law, tax returns and payments mailed through USPS are timely if they are postmarked on or before the due date.

If a tax return or payment is postmarked after the due date, it may be considered late and subject to penalties and interest.

### What You Should Do

To avoid late filing penalties and interest:

- **File and pay taxes and fees online.** Eliminate the worry about missing a due date because of a postmark date. For more information, visit [floridarevenue.com/taxes/eservices](http://floridarevenue.com/taxes/eservices).
- **Mail early.** Send tax returns and payments several days before the deadline.

- **Go inside.** Take the mail inside the post office and choose one of these in-person options:
  - Request a manual postmark to ensure the date reflects when USPS accepted your item.
  - Get a certificate of mailing. This works like a receipt, providing official proof of when you sent the item. (Keep your copy; USPS does not retain one.)
  - Send by registered or certified mail, as these methods provide mailing receipts and tracking.

References: **Title 39, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 111, Postmarks and Postal Possession, Federal Register, Vol. 90, No. 224, p. 52883, November 24, 2025**

### **For More Information**

This document is intended to alert you to the requirements contained in Florida laws and administrative rules. It does not by its own effect create rights or require compliance.

For forms and other information, visit the Department's website at **floridarevenue.com** or call Taxpayer Services at (850) 488-6800, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

For a written reply to tax questions, email **fdortaxpayerservices@floridarevenue.com**.

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