



OKLAHOMA
Tax Commission

USPS POSTMARK INFORMATION

MAIL YOUR TAX RETURN WITH USPS

Use the U.S. Postal Service® to mail your tax return, get proof that you mailed it on a specific date with Certified Mail® or Registered Mail® service, and track its arrival at the IRS.

OKLAHOMA AND FEDERAL TAX DEADLINES

Oklahoma and the IRS considers a tax return to be filed on time if your envelope:

- Is properly addressed
- Has enough postage
- Is postmarked by the filing due date

As long as your envelope meets the above criteria, your tax return will be considered on time (even if it's delivered after the due date).

Important: To ensure your tax return is postmarked on the day you mail it, ask a retail associate at a Post Office retail counter to hand-cancel it for free.

POSTMARKING YOUR MAIL

What is a Postmark?

A postmark is a marking applied by the Postal Service™ to a mailpiece (letter, flat or package). A postmark displays the following:

- The name or location (city and state) of the processing facility or retail unit that applied the postmark
- The date of the first automated processing operation performed on that mailpiece, if the post mark was applied at a processing facility
- The date it was accepted at a retail unit, if the postmark was applied at retail
- Cancellation markings, where necessary, to cancel postage so that it may not be reused, which will typically be seen as lines or bars printed over the postage.

How do I get a Postmark?

Postmarks are generally applied by the Postal Service via automation on machines in processing facilities or manually applied by employees at those facilities. Postmarks may also be applied manually by employees at a retail unit upon request from the customer.

While we are not changing our postmarking practices, we have made adjustments to our transportation operations that will result in some mailpieces not arriving at our originating processing facilities on the same day that they are mailed. This means that the date on the postmarks applied at our processing facilities will not necessarily match the date on which your mailpiece was collected by a letter carrier, dropped off at a retail location, or placed in a collection box.

The Postal Service does not postmark every piece of mail in the normal course of operations. For example, Marketing Mail, Presort First-Class Mail, and metered mail presented to the Postal Service in trays will bypass originating processing operations, including machine cancellation. While the Postal Service intends to postmark letters and flats that are entered as Single-Piece First-Class Mail and processed on automated cancellation machines, there are circumstances when mail will not receive a postmark, including where a mailpiece is stuck to another mailpiece when it runs through the canceling machine, or where the machine runs out of ink or smears when applying postmarks.

Note: If you wish to have your mail postmarked for the purpose of indicating the exact date it was submitted for mailing, you can go to any USPS retail counter and request a postal employee to manually postmark or "hand-cancel", up to 50 times for free. If you wish to have more than 50 items hand-canceled, please contact the local Postmaster or other manager in advance to ensure adequate resources are available to assist.