

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE DEPARTMENT  
Mailbox Location & Specifications

**The following are the United States Postal Service mailbox regulations:**

Posts and other supports for curbside boxes are owned and controlled by customers, who are responsible for seeing that posts are neat and of adequate strength and size. Customers are encouraged to avoid using massive mailbox supports that, when struck, could damage vehicles and cause injury. Heavy metal posts, concrete posts and miscellaneous farm equipment, such as milk cans filled with concrete, are examples of potentially dangerous supports. The ideal support is an assembly that bends or falls away when struck by a vehicle.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has determined that mailbox supports no larger than 4 inches by 4 inches, or a 2-inch diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe, should safely break away if struck by a vehicle. The box must also be securely attached to its post to prevent separation if struck.

Generally, customers should install boxes with the bottom of the box at a vertical height of between 3 to 4 feet from the road surface. However, because of varying road and curb conditions and other factors, the Postal Service recommends that customers contact the postmaster or carrier before erecting or replacing mailboxes and supports.

**In addition, the Tuscarawas County Road and Bridge Department has the following regulations:**

- 1) The mailbox should be located to give adequate sight distance to the mail carrier; i.e. avoid placing mailbox on a blind curve or near a blind hill crest.
- 2) Construction and maintenance of the mail carrier's pull-off area is the responsibility of the homeowner. The County should be consulted prior to the construction of any pull-off area having other than an aggregate surface.
- 3) Mailboxes should be located a minimum of four (4) feet from the front of the mailbox to the edge of pavement and secure enough to withstand the effect of heavy snow and slush thrown from snow plows. The County will repair/replace **only** those mailboxes physically hit by County Equipment as a result of our equipment leaving the roadway.
- 4) The house number should be posted so that it is clearly visible in both directions so that the number can be seen by an emergency vehicle approaching in either direction. Reflective letters at least 3 inches in height are recommended.