



News for Immediate Release

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PennDOT Reminds Homeowners to Prepare Mailboxes for Winter

Harrisburg – PennDOT reminds residents living along rural state and local roads that now is the time to prepare mailboxes for the winter months. Snow thrown from plows can easily damage mailboxes that are not prepared.

Mailboxes are normally placed within the state's legal right-of-way; however, mailbox damage is the responsibility of the property owner.

If a mailbox is placed as far from the edge of the road as the carrier can reach from a vehicle and the mailbox is placed on a sturdy support, it should be able to withstand the force of snow thrown from a plow.

PennDOT offers these tips to help reduce the risk of mailbox damage:

- Place a 6- to 8-inch piece of reflective tape on the mailbox to help snow plow operators see it at night.
- Remove snow from around the mailbox, but never throw it back onto the road.
- If the mailbox is located within the legal right-of-way and damage was experienced in the past, homeowners may want to consider repositioning the mailbox before winter.

Homeowners who have followed these tips in the past and have still experienced mailbox damage may wish to consider installing a cantilevered mailbox support that will swing a mailbox out of harm's way. Visit www.dot.state.pa.us for a copy of plans for a cantilever mailbox support.

Contact your local post office for more information about how to correctly position a mailbox.

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Frequent Winter Storms, Lots of Plowing Prompt PennDOT to Remind Homeowners to Check Mailboxes

It's been a busy winter for PennDOT with snow plows fast becoming a regular sight on area roads. But frequent snow plowing can lead to loose and possibly damaged mailboxes. For this reason, PennDOT reminds homeowners to be sure that their mailboxes can withstand the impact of snow thrown from a snowplow.

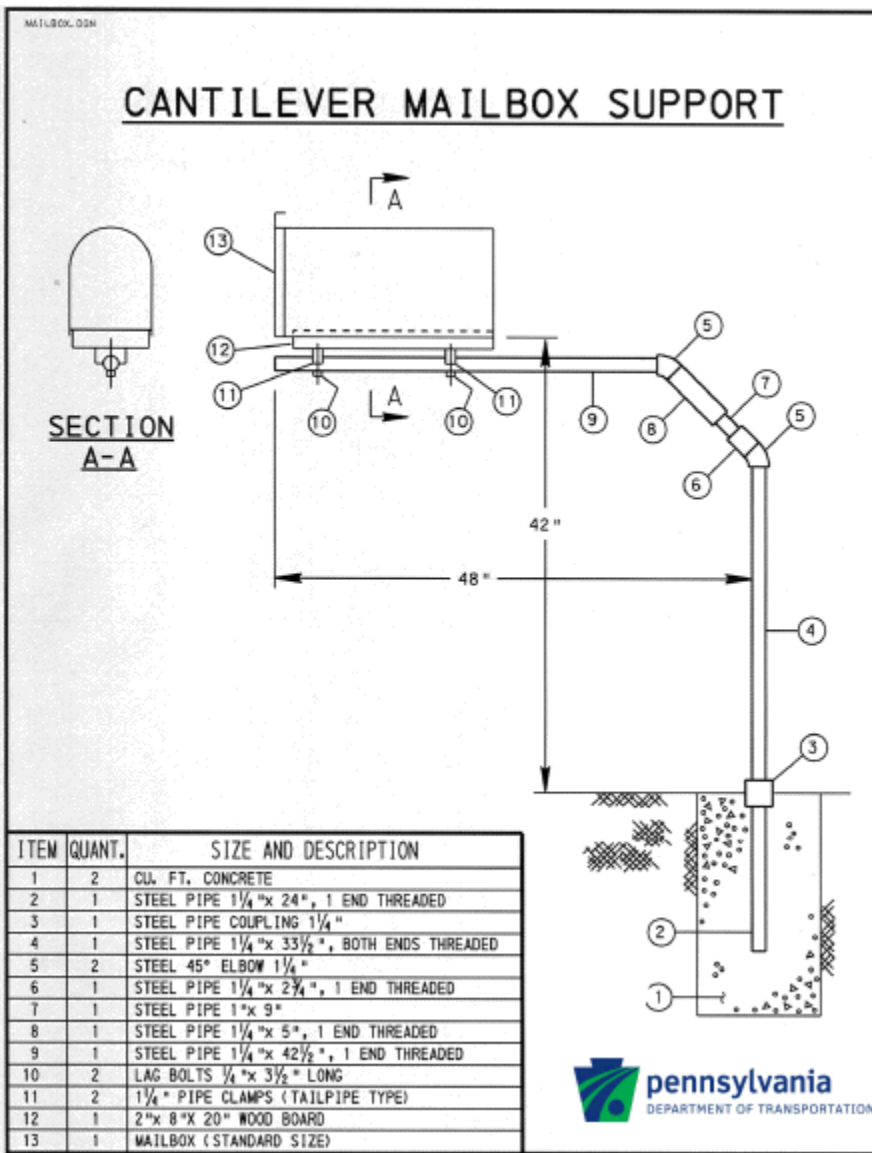
Normally, if a mailbox is properly supported and placed as far from the shoulder of the road as possible, but still within a mail carrier's reach, then it should be able to withstand the force of snow being thrown from a snowplow.

Homeowners need to be sure that their mailbox has a strong support. Also, applying reflective tape makes mailboxes easier to see during winter storms and at night.

During winter storms, PennDOT and municipalities focus on removing snow from roadways which may result in mailboxes taking a beating. Homeowners should frequently check mailbox supports and remember to remove snow from in front of the mailbox, allowing easier access for mail deliveries. However, homeowners should never shovel snow onto the road.

PennDOT has plans available for a cantilevered mailbox support that will swing a mailbox out of harm's way. A diagram is available by visiting the Ready for Winter Section on PennDOT's website at www.dot.state.pa.us/Winter, then click on "Get Ready for Winter."

Questions on a mailbox's proper location along the roadway should be addressed by your local post office. Homeowners are reminded that they are responsible for mailbox damage caused by snow removal.



Call "511" from any phone (BUT DO NOT DIAL WHILE DRIVING!!) Or visit www.511pa.com
 Get roadwork updates at PennDOT's NEPA Transportation website: www.neparoads.com

1-800-FIX ROAD - Your PennDOT Hotline to report road maintenance issues.

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