

Tax Collector » Understanding Postmarks

AVOID PENALTIES BY UNDERSTANDING POSTMARKS

Property tax payments must be received or postmarked by the delinquency date to avoid penalties. If a payment is received after the delinquency date, with no postmark, the payment is considered late and penalties will be imposed, in accordance with State law. The 1st installment will be imposed a 10% penalty and the 2nd installment will be imposed a 10% penalty and a \$10 cost. For example, if the amount due for the 1st installment is \$2,000, a 10% penalty of \$200 will be imposed. If the amount due for the 2nd installment is \$2,000, a 10% penalty of \$200 and a \$10 cost (total \$210) will be imposed.

POSTMARKS are imprints on letters, flats, and parcels that show the name of the United States Postal Service (USPS) office that accepted custody of the mail, along with the state, the zip code, and the date of mailing. The postmark is generally applied, either by machine or by hand, with cancellation bars to indicate that the postage cannot be reused.

Taxpayers who send their payments by mail are cautioned that the USPS only postmarks certain mail depending on the type of postage used, and may not postmark mail on the same day deposited by a taxpayer.

Postage that **IS** postmarked:

- **STANDARD POSTAGE STAMPS:** Stamps purchased and affixed to mail as evidence of the payment of postage.

Postage that is **NOT** postmarked:

- **METERED MAIL:** Mail on which postage is printed directly on an envelope or label by a postage machine licensed by the USPS. Many private companies use these types of postage machines.
- **PRE-CANCELED STAMP:** Stamps sold through a private vendor, such as stamps.com®.

- **AUTOMATED POSTAL CENTER (APC) STAMPS:** Stamps, with or without a date, purchased from machines located within a USPS lobby.
- **PERMIT IMPRINT:** Pre-sorted mail used by bill pay services, such as online home banking.

If you use these types of postage, the USPS will not postmark your mail. You will be charged a 10% penalty and a \$10 cost, if applicable, if we do not receive your mailed payment by the delinquency date.

Other options:

Purchase a **POSTAGE VALIDATED IMPRINT (PVI)** Label from a USPS retail counter or window. The PVI is applied to a piece of mail by personnel at the retail counter or window when postage has been paid to mail that item. The item is retained in USPS custody and is not handed back to the customer. The date printed on the PVI label is the date of mailing.