

United States Postal Service®

INDUSTRYALERT

June 30, 2023

Don't Mail Mercury – USPS Publication 52: Hazardous, Restricted, & Perishable Mail

The Postal Service is reminding customers that metallic mercury and devices containing metallic mercury are always prohibited in the mail stream. This includes antique items such as thermometers, barometers, blood pressure monitors and similar devices.

Here's what you should do:

1. Review [USPS Publication 52, Hazardous, Restricted, & Perishable Mail](#), to find out if your item is mailable.
2. Follow U.S. laws and USPS hazmat guidelines.
3. Ship items securely with required labels and markings. You can take your package to a Post Office location to make sure it is labeled correctly.

Improper, undeclared, or prohibited hazmat (hazardous material) shipping can have serious consequences for everyone involved.

The Postal Service is committed to the safety and security of its employees, its customers, and its transportation networks. We must remain vigilant in safeguarding the mail stream against any article that might pose a hazard to health, safety, property, or the environment.

If a person knowingly mails items or materials that are dangerous or injurious to life, health, or property, they may face a civil penalty of at least \$250, but not more than \$100,000 per violation, the costs of any cleanup associated with each violation, and damages. They may also face criminal penalties.

Reminder: Effective July 9, USPS will require Electronic Indicators when shipping Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) and Dangerous Goods (DG). Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail* (Pub 52) will be revised to incorporate new requirements for mailers to use unique Service Type Codes (STCs) and extra service codes (ESCs) within the tracking barcodes and electronic data submission for package shipments containing HAZMAT or DG.

Additional tools: Tutorial on sending hazardous materials: [Hazmat Shipping Safety](#)
Public service announcement on mercury: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wriu99Z01r8>

The attachment provides a list of Commonly Encountered Mercury products.

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475 L'Enfant Plaza, RM 4411
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