

Holiday Mail & Package Tips

With the holidays right around the corner, the Bald Head Island Post Office and Island Package Center (IPC) has a few tips and reminders if you are planning to mail and ship items from the island or if you are planning to have items shipped to the island this season.

BHI Outgoing Mail & Package Schedule

U.S. Mail – U.S. mail leaves the island Monday through Friday on the 2:30 p.m. passenger ferry. Please have mail in the outbound mailbox no later than 2:15 p.m. There is no outbound mail delivery on Saturday.

UPS – All UPS packages (prepaid and drop-offs) originating at IPC depart the island via the Bald Head Island Limited warehouse truck on the barge. The exact timing of departure depends entirely on the warehouse truck schedule and barge schedule. These packages must be transported via the barge and cannot be transported on the passenger ferry. Every effort is made to have these packages sent off the island as quickly as possible. Once the packages arrive at the Deep Point warehouse, they will be picked up by the next UPS delivery truck which is generally the next business day.

FedEx – The IPC does not offer FedEx shipping services; however, they do accept prepaid FedEx drop-offs. All pre-paid FedEx drop-off packages depart the island via the Bald Head Island Limited warehouse truck and then the barge. The exact timing of departure depends entirely on the warehouse truck schedule and barge schedule. These packages must be transported via the barge and cannot be transported on the passenger ferry. Every effort is made to have these packages sent off the island as quickly as possible. Once the packages arrive at the Deep Point warehouse, they will be picked up by the next FedEx delivery truck which is generally the next business day.

Tips:

- Send your items as soon as possible and give everything an extra day or two when you are sending them from the island.
- If you are ordering food to be delivered to the island for the holidays give it a few extra days delivery time.
- Select a durable box to protect contents.
- Properly address packages – include both “to” and “from” information on only one side of the box.
- Print addresses clearly – add all address elements including apartment numbers and directional information.
- Never guess a zip code – you can look up a zip code easily at usps.com. No zip is better than a wrong zip.
- Place a card inside with the delivery and return address in case the label becomes damaged or falls off.
- When you are at the IPC/PO, please make sure your package is ready for sending when you bring it to the counter. Village staff will not be able to help you package

items or determine the “send to” address for you. If you are purchasing packaging supplies, you may be asked to allow staff to wait on the next person in line so you can package your items and return to the window to arrange and pay for shipping. The IPC/PO typically does not supply tape.

Incoming Package Arrival:

If you need your packages to arrive to your island residence on time, make sure you give them plenty of time to make it here for your special occasion. Based previous years, it is important to have food ordered in a timely manner for arrival one week in advance. Shipping times have been slower for some carriers and vendors over the pandemic and the recent shipping delays from overseas. Always remember that if you receive a message from a vendor or carrier that your package has arrived, that it has most likely arrived in Southport at either the post office or the BHI Transportation Warehouse at Deep Point.

The timing of the package’s arrival depends on the carrier. Review the estimated arrival times by carrier below.

U.S. Postal Service – For USPS packages typically add 1-2 days from the time your package has arrived in Southport before it can be picked up at IPC.

UPS – For UPS packages typically add 1-2 days from the time your package has arrived in Southport before it can be picked up at IPC.

FedEx – For Fed Ex packages typically add 2-3 days from the time your package arrived in Southport before it can be picked up at IPC.

The information above is typically valid for “normal” operating conditions. Further delays may occur when the barge does not run due to weather conditions, maintenance situations, or heavy volume on the barge. For more detailed information about incoming packages view our guide [HERE](#).