



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Mail Boss™—Identity Armor for ID Theft

25 million Americans were victims of ID theft in last 5 years, many of them from mail fraud. The Mail Boss™ locking security mailbox is the best, affordable first line of defense against the fast-growing crimes of mail and identity theft.

(Redmond, Washington, July 23, 2007) Each year millions of people are victims of the fastest growing crime in the country—Identity Theft. One of the most common ways felons acquire information about a victim’s identity is by stealing mail from unsecured, non-locking mailboxes. The Mail Boss™ locking security mailbox is the first line of defense against the growing and expensive crimes of mail and ID theft.

Most “locking” mailboxes can be destroyed and violated in about three seconds. But Mail Boss is virtually impenetrable, and the most affordable, security mail box available.

“The Mail Boss is the first line of defense in the battle to protect one’s identity,” said David Bolles, President of Epoch Design, LLC, designer and manufacturer of Mail Boss. “Paper shredders are great, but if your mail is stolen, your shredder cannot protect your identity. Mail Boss is designed to stop thieves from stealing your mail and parasitizing your identity.”

Although mail fraud is a federal crime, few crooks are ever caught; they just appear in a new neighborhood and repeat the offense. But the identity information they steal appears elsewhere.

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A stolen identity is often sold, bit-by-bit, to crime syndicates that use overseas databases to put the victim's identity together, like a puzzle, and then sell it to others. A birth date has value, around \$10. A driver's license number earns a thief about \$50. A social security number can net \$80. A person's mail is the #1 source of stolen ID information. Criminals patiently accumulate identities of family members, including children.

According to the United States Postal Office, more than 25 million Americans have been victims of identity theft in just the last five years, with the average person spending 175 hours and over \$800 to clear their name. When Bolles had his mail stolen—twice—and couldn't find a secure enough product, he set out to design one that could offer true protection and still be affordable to most consumers. The result is the Mail Boss.

The Mail Boss' engineered design combines heavy-duty, powder-coated galvanized steel, a welded (rivet-free) body, stainless steel hinges, a high-security, patent-pending locking system, and an anti-pry device on the inside of the door to prevent leveraged entry. A revolutionary mounting system allows the Mail Boss to be installed by the average homeowner in minutes rather than hours.

“With growing numbers of Americans experiencing some form of ID theft, it's not *if* you become a victim, rather *when*, and what you're doing now to protect yourself,” said Bolles. “The Mail Boss is the first line of defense against mail and ID theft. Given the costs of reclaiming one's identity, and the frequency of the crime, I think everyone one day will have security mailboxes.”

The Mail Boss is USPS tested and approved, and sells for under \$200.00.

The Mail Boss is a division of Epoch Design, LLC of Redmond, Washington, whose other divisions include Furniture by Epoch Design and Futon Factory. For more information about the Mail Boss and to view a video presentation, visit www.themailboss.com. Or call 425-284-0880.

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Facts Outlining the Importance of a Locking Mailbox

- “Total one year fraud amount [from identity theft] rose from \$53.2 billion in 2003 and \$54.4 billion in 2005 to \$56.6 billion in 2006.”
-Source: www.privacyrights.com.
- “...the mean fraud amount per fraud victim [rose] from \$5,249 in 2003 and \$5,885 in 2005 to \$6,383 in 2006.”
-Source: www.privacyrights.com.
- “The U.S. Federal Trade Commission says that identity theft is its number one source of consumer complaints – 42% of all complaints, in 2001.”
-Source: Identity Theft Prevention & Victim Assistance Center.
- “Last year alone an estimated 9.9 million Americans were victims of identity theft.”
“...most identity theft involves the U.S. Mail...”
-Source: U.S. Postal Inspection Service.
- Delores Barkl, Cle Elum Post Master in Washington State said “The best solution for everybody – not just people in rural and outlying areas – [is] to go to lock-box mailboxes”
-Source: Daily Record Online Edition; Kittitas County, Washington.
- Sandy Klein, from the U.S. Attorney’s Office states that “one of the fastest growing crimes in America [is] identity theft” and that “one of the most common ways that Identity Thieves get their information is by stealing mail.”
-Source: U.S. Attorney’s office Central District of California; Identity Theft Transcript.
- The first piece of advice that Washington State’s Attorney General gave the public recently when addressing identity theft is “consider purchasing a locking mailbox.”
-Source: Washington State Office of the Attorney General; Ask the AG, October 24, 2005.
- When the Federal Trade Commission wrote an article warning people about identity theft they advised citizens to “guard your mail from theft [by] installing a locking mailbox.”
-Source: Federal Trade Commission – Facts for Consumers: Identity Theft: Reduce Your Risk.