

MAILBOX REPLACEMENT EVALUTION GUIDE

1. **AESTHETICS** – a mailbox’s appearance should make a positive statement about your house & neighborhood and increase the appeal of your subdivision
 - a. **COLOR** – black is popular currently, possibly with gold accents or numbers.
 - b. **STYLE** - Some prefer a more ornate looking post and box while a more traditional style will also project an image of elegance. A square post is fine if there are touches of style in other places, and allows flowers to be planted around the base. A round fluted (scalloped edge) post is also fine and may provide style where people are not as likely to plant flowers.
 - c. **NUMBERING** – you will want house numbers or a cast aluminum address plaque that complements the overall look of the mailbox.

2. **CONSTRUCTION** – prevent dents, broken hinges, rust, leaning posts, and other problems associated with existing cheap post and mailboxes
 - a. **ALL ALUMINUM** – aluminum will NEVER RUST or ROT so it is a great choice for both Post and Box. Don’t be fooled by those who mix aluminum and steel but lead you to believe it is all aluminum. If a magnet sticks to it, it is not aluminum!
 - b. **THICKNESS** – look for posts or boxes that are “extruded” or “cast” since they are usually 1/8” or more thick and can withstand heavy wear and tear. Beware of boxes made of thin sheet metal, since this can dent easily. Get a sense of this by hitting the box and post with your fist
 - c. **PAINT** – the color should be Powder coated for durability (this process uses colorful polyester powders applied and then baked onto the metal). Non-powder coated boxes and posts often become highly faded and “chalky” after several years.
 - d. **HINGE** - since the hinge is the most vulnerable part, you should look to be sure it is constructed well. Similarly, you should examine the red flag.
 - e. **REPLACEMENT PARTS** - the entire mailbox system should have parts that can be readily replaced.
 - f. **NUMBERING** – you will want durable house numbers or a cast aluminum address plaque that is 2-sided and will not readily fade or peel
 - g. **SIZE** – now is also a good time to consider a larger size mailbox

3. **PRICE** – for the most part, you get what you pay for
 - a. **HOW MUCH SHOULD A GOOD MAILBOX COST?** – The best quality mailbox at Home Improvement stores are not ALL aluminum and cost about \$300 - \$400 (uninstalled). Shop around and you will see how much good quality mailboxes cost.
 - b. **TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE** -- If you are getting a deal that seems too good to be true, then look a little closer to understand what you are NOT getting
 - c. **INCREASES HOME VALUES** – a small additional price paid now can easily make your neighborhood more appealing when it comes to resale value.