

MAILBOXES, MAILBOXES, MAILBOXES

There's more to it than just a box to hold your mail!

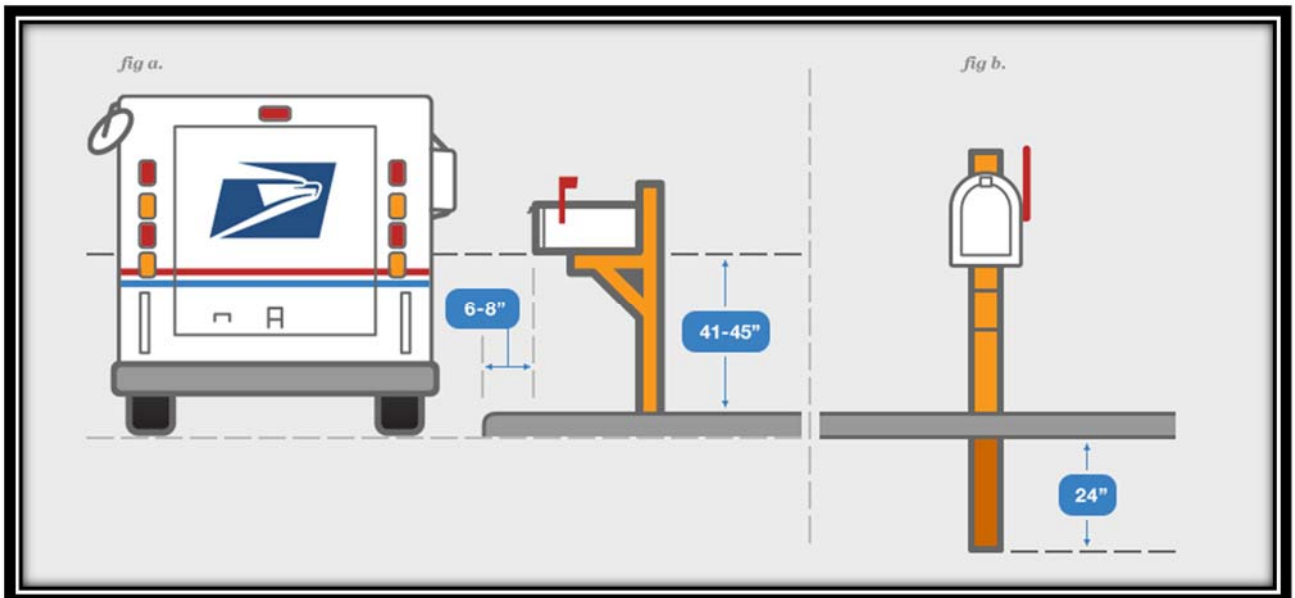
When you move in to a new house or decide it's time to replace or dress up that old mailbox did you know that there are a lot of legal requirements you must follow with the design & installation of your mailbox? Many of us may believe it just involves a quick trip to Fleet Farm & a few screws.

Around 1902 the idea of a standardized design or Postmaster General *approved* mailbox came about. The simple cigar or feedbox was no longer acceptable. As years progressed regulations regarding installation came about also.



There are two governing bodies that oversee mailboxes – the United States Postal Service and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT), for safety reasons. Below is a simple pictorial outlining the basic USPS installation requirements.

Please Note: In the case of county roads, the front face of the mailbox shall be **back 6 – 8"** from the **edge** of the driving surface.



MNDOT then requires that your mailbox support be installed so that it does not pose a **hazard** to **road authorities** or a **danger** to **vehicles** in the event of an accident. Minnesota statute 169.072 indicates that supports shall meet *crashworthiness* standards – either a breakaway or swing away mailbox. “Steel tractor wheels, concrete filled cream cans and welded chain are only a few examples for existing installations that are candidates for replacement.” Please understand Athens Township is not liable for damage to mailboxes that do not meet the legal requirements.

For more information regarding mailbox safety & installation you can go to either of the following websites:

<https://www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm>

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/mailbox.html>

If you are interested in purchasing a swing away mailbox support please contact the town hall at 763-444-8097.

Have a Safe & Enjoyable Winter!

--The Athens Board of Supervisors.