

Office of the Lucas County Engineer

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MAILBOX DAMAGE REPLACEMENT POLICY

On occasion, mailboxes are stuck by Lucas County Road Maintenance Vehicles such as snowplows or mowers. However, it is usually the snow coming off the plow that actually causes damage to the mailbox, sometimes making the box inaccessible to the Postal Service. If you believe your mailbox was damaged by County Road Maintenance Vehicles, the homeowner must file a damage claim with the Office of the Lucas County Engineer. Claim forms are available on the website of the Office of the Lucas County Engineer and can be submitted by mail, fax, or email as shown on the form or hand delivered to the Office of the Lucas County Engineer. **Damage claims will not be accepted by phone.** After receipt of the damage claim, the Office of the Lucas County Engineer will dispatch someone to visit your property in order to validate the claim.

All damage claims must be reported within 2 working days of the occurrence in order to be eligible for replacement.

The Office of the Lucas County Engineer will replace or repair damaged mailboxes only when there is sufficient evidence that the damage was due to a Lucas County Maintenance Vehicle (such as a snowplow or mower) directly striking the mailbox or support. The Office of the Lucas County Engineer WILL NOT replace damaged mailboxes or supports when the damage is due to the force of snow or any other object thrown at a mailbox by a county snowplow or when the property owner has not mowed within 7 feet of each side of the mailbox if damaged by a mower.

Mailboxes which HAVE NOT been installed in compliance with the "Guidelines for Construction and Installation of Mailboxes" issued by the Office of the Lucas County Engineer which are struck by a Lucas County Maintenance Vehicle will not be replaced under any circumstances.

After inspection, the Office of the Lucas County Engineer reserves the right to refuse to replace any damaged mailbox when, in the opinion of the Office of the Lucas County Engineer, it does not appear the vehicle, snowplow, or mower was operated in a negligent manner or if the mailbox was not installed in accordance with the Guidelines for Construction and Installation of Mailboxes.

Mailbox Damage Replacement Policy September 1, 2018

When a mailbox is directly damaged during snow removal or mower operations in accordance with this policy, the Office of the Lucas County Engineer Road Maintenance will:

1. Repair, if possible

OR

2. Replace with a standard mailbox and post,

OR

3. Compensate the owner for damage. Maximum compensation is \$40 for the cost of the material, including a standard mailbox and post. If the owner chooses cash compensation, the owner is responsible for the repair of and/or installation of the mailbox and post.

The repairs and/or replacement of a mailbox and post by the Office of the Lucas County Engineer may take several days depending on storm conditions and workload.

To reduce the risk of a mailbox being damaged from the force of snow we recommend the mailbox be shielded. Examples of appropriate methods of shielding are shown below.



Mailbox Damage Replacement Policy
September 1, 2018

In addition, we recommend that snow not be piled up on the approach side of the mailbox when plowing a driveway, but be piled on the departing side of the mailbox. This will reduce the risk of heavier snow impacting the mailbox. **We highly recommend that plastic mailboxes not be installed on Lucas County roadways. Plastic mailboxes become very brittle in the winter and typically do not survive the force of snow and slush.**