

Change your mail address before the bills do

A move is not finished when the boxes are in the new place. Mail still goes to the old one until you tell the post office, and then you still have to tell the people who send the bills.

Sunday is a common day to finish a move. The truck is gone. The keys are in a bowl. The old mailbox is someone else's problem now — except it is not, until the mail actually follows you.

Do the post office step first. Then do the list of senders. Those are two different jobs.

Tell the post office

The United States Postal Service can forward mail from an old U.S. address to a new one. You can start that on the official USPS site, or in person at a post office. Pick permanent if you are staying. Pick temporary if you will be back.

Use the names of the adults who should get mail. If a child's mail should come too, follow what the form asks for that name. Do not guess a start date that is already weeks in the past and hope old mail appears. Forwarding covers a set window. Read the dates on the confirmation.

Online, USPS checks that you are you. There is a small identity fee on that path. The amount is on the USPS page when you submit. Pay it there. A text from a stranger that says "pay this to forward your mail" is not the post office. Keep the confirmation. It is the proof that you asked.

Forwarding is not the same as updating everyone

Forwarding is a bridge. It does not rewrite your address at the bank, the school, the clinic, the phone company, the light company, or the agency that sends a benefit letter. Each of those has its own form, app, or office.

Make a short list this weekend: work and pay; bank and any card you use to pay rent; school or daycare; clinic, pharmacy, and insurance; phone, internet, and the power or gas account; any office that mails you a letter you cannot afford to miss.

Open each account and change the mailing address yourself. If a site asks for a street, type the real new one in that private form. Do not put that street on a public post, a photo, or a group chat.

What to watch for

Mail for the old address can keep arriving for a while. Some pieces say "return to sender" and never forward. Magazines and packages often have their own rules. If something important does not show up, contact the sender. Do not wait out the whole forward window.

If you did not move, and you get a letter that says your address was changed, treat that as urgent. Go to the official USPS site or a post office and ask them to look at the change. Do not click a link in the letter if you are unsure it is real.

Soft product note

The Spanish steps, in plain language, are on Pasos USA:

<https://www.pasosusa.com/guias/cambiar-direccion-correo>. The guide is free. It is for people already in the U.S. It is not the post office, not a .gov site, and not a lawyer. You still file the change on the official USPS site or at a post office. More everyday guides are at <https://www.pasosusa.com>.

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Not the post office. Not a .gov site. Not legal advice. Sunday Edition · October 4, 2026.