

Level One

Paint Your Mailbox



Painting your mailbox can be a fun way to show your creative side and bring some color and personality to your neighborhood. You can even get your neighbors in on it and have the whole neighborhood paint their mailboxes. The kids will love participating in this fun craft. Adding this simple art can increase the attractiveness of your neighborhood, and promote happiness for your family and your neighbors nearby.

Investment: To do this project, it will take about 2-3 days to complete and about \$25 - \$30 depending on how many supplies you already have.

1. Buy Supplies

- a. Begin by starting with an idea of what you want your mailbox to look like! Get creative and represent who you are!

Buy any supplies you need to make your unique design. Supplies like:

- i. Exterior paint that is suited for metal (Rust-oleum) and stencils
 - ii. Paint brushes and wire brush
 - iii. Paint primer for exterior metal surfaces.
- b. Stores like **Hobby lobby**, **Walmart**, and **Ace Hardware** should have all the things you need to get creative with this project!

2. Grab Your Mailbox

- a. Remove your mailbox from its post. Most mailboxes should be screwed into a post, so all you should need is a screwdriver.

3. Set Up Your Workspace

- a. Find a well-ventilated area, where you can easily paint and decorate your mailbox.
- b. Set up your painting area with either a table or an old blanket to catch any paint.

4. Clean It Up

- a. Before painting, take a wire brush to any rusty spots to remove the rust.
- b. Clean any dirt or oil from your mailbox with a wet rag.

5. Apply Primer

- a. After you are done cleaning your mailbox, let the mailbox dry.
- b. Then coat the entire mailbox with a paint primer. This needs to dry for a whole day.

6. Get Creative

- a. Once the primer is dry you can paint the mailbox whichever way you like. It's your mailbox, so get creative and make it reflect who you are or your family values. The possibilities are endless.
- b. Please keep in mind when painting your mailbox, to follow these tips:
 - i. You must have your address number on your mailbox. The numbers need to be **four** inches high and on the side visible to the carrier as he approaches or on the front. All lettering should be reflective if possible.
 - ii. If you have further questions on the postal requirements or expand your mailbox project, bring your mailbox and future ideas to the local post office and speak with the Post Master to determine if it is within proper standards.

7. Show-off Your Masterpiece

- a. When your new creation is dry, reattach the mailbox to its post and let your neighborhood enjoy your new work of art! Spread the news to have your neighbors try it next!

