

Missionary Care Package Tips



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What To Send:

Anything specifically requested by the missionary! Email them to ask.

- **Lightweight items:** pretty paper napkins/plates, notecards/stationery, DVDs, iTunes gift cards, etc.
- **Non-perishable food:** dry spice mixes (specifically American flavors like BBQ or TexMex), box cookie/cake mixes, microwave popcorn, candy
- **Children's items:** coloring/activity books, stickers, markers, colored pencils, chalk, construction paper, DVDs
- **Seasonal items:** napkins, plates, decorations, themed candy, etc.

Note: If sending holiday items, mail at least six weeks before the holiday.

What Not To Send:

- Anything that would identify the recipient as a missionary
- Anything fragile liquid or perishable

Special Considerations:

- Remember that all packages will be opened, and contents reviewed.
- Check with the missionary before sending religious items to restricted access countries.

Shipping Options:

- **USPS First Class** – 2 weeks to most countries' main customs offices + 2-3 weeks for delivery within the country itself by local service, price based on weight (cheapest option is under 5 lbs. flat rate box)
- **USPS Priority** – 10 days to most customs offices + 2-3 weeks for delivery within the country itself by local service, no weight limit, flat rate of \$65 to most places outside North America
- **UPS and FedEx** – More secure, but significantly more expensive

Note: USPS gets package to customs, and then local postal service takes it from there; UPS and FedEx get package from door to door.

Custom Forms:

Get form from post office (or FedEx or UPS store), and fill in addresses, etc. For customs purposes, just list a few of the items included in the package in general terms, not specific, and a dollar value (\$1 or \$2 each is fine). If the value listed is too high, or specific desirable items are listed, the box might get stolen, or opened and things stolen out of it.