Addressing That Works — When Seconds Count

Because help often arrives from the opposite direction of the mail service, only 50% of your street addresses are visible to 9-1-1 first responders or anyone else.

Don’t keep them guessing, identifying your street address on BOTH sides of your mailbox using a minimum of 3-inch high white reflective numbers on a dark background.

If you live in an area that uses community mailboxes rather than individual mailboxes, it is important to display your address on your house using a minimum of 4-inch high numbers that are well illuminated and have a high contrast to the background, both day and night. As an alternate, place a small post with the address sign attached, visible from both sides, and located near the roadside.

**DO** Use a minimum of 3-inch high white reflective numbers on a dark background.

**DO** use a directional arrow on the mailbox if you share a driveway with another house or if the mailboxes are all on the same side of the road.

**DO** display your address ON YOUR HOUSE using a minimum of 4-inch high numbers and make sure they are visible from the street and brightly illuminated.

**DO** call your local fire department and ask about their addressing guidelines.

**DO NOT** use black numbers under any circumstance. What color is not visible at night? Black numbers on a white reflective background are common but hard to see at night. The white reflective background has a tendency to balloon from the bright lights of an approaching emergency vehicle and hide the black letters.

**DO NOT** use brass numbers, they are difficult to see in the daytime and impossible at night.

**DO NOT** use cursive numbering. 1184 is easier to read than Eleven Eighty Four

**DO NOT** allow shrubbery or holiday decorations to block the address on your mailbox or house.

**DO NOT** rely on curbside painted numbers. Responders cannot see them as they approach from down the road. The numbers are easily covered by snow, dirt, debris, and completely hidden by a parked car.
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Good Addressing Helps Everyone

When Seconds Count
Don’t Keep Them Guessing

Check with your local Fire/EMS Department, Police Department, Zoning Department, and the Homeowners Assn. for their specific requirements. Info at www.911ready.org
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Numbers and Lettering Sources

**Do It Yourself Lettering.com**
www.doityourselflettering.com/

1654
3 inch self-adhesive vinyl white reflective on black ~ $14-

**numbersandletters.com**
www.numbersandletters.com/
3 to 6 inch self-adhesive white reflective ~$3.5 each

**eBay**
0011 2233 4455 6677 8899
Reflector Sheet of White Vinyl Street Address Mailbox Number Decal Sticker Kit ~ $16

**The Home Depot**
3 inch, Home Depot in store white on black nail on

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SafetySign.com 3 or 4 inch high ~ $20

1 5 7 2 1 5 7 2 1 5 7 2 1 5 7 2

Horizontal or Vertical Red, Black, Green, Blue and Brown backgrounds, Reflective both sides

www.Interstate911.com

3 or 4 inch ~ $18

1 5 7 2 1 5 7 2

Horizontal or Vertical Red, Green, Blue and Brown backgrounds, Reflective both sides

www.SignSpecialist.com

911 Signs, 6”x18”, both sides under $20-