

Co-op Coalition Survey: Mail Box Replacement

Thanks to the several members who responded. Because so many responses indicated the co-ops had not replaced their mailboxes, only those that had relevance are posted (below).

DC Cooperative Housing Coalition

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In a message dated Tuesday, May 7, 2019 12:18 PM

Has your co-op replaced its resident mailboxes? If so, a Coalition member wants your help. Their question is below. Please respond by Friday, May 24. Thanks for helping one another!

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Serving the District's cooperative housing community since 1984

You are getting this blind-copied to protect your privacy.

Our co-op needs to replace our mailboxes. Our current mailboxes are wall-mounted, semi recessed units that are arranged in two banks (one on either side of our entry hall). We'd like to replace these in kind to the extent possible. Our question for our fellow members: has any co-op replaced their mailboxes and if so, could they recommend (or warn against) any products/vendors/companies?

A picture of (broken) existing conditions is attached for reference.

<25 units	We used Merlino Construction 202 546-6892 they matched up the existing mailboxes. Contractor or unit owner needs to be home to make sure USPS has a working key afterwards and all the boxes are installed properly.
<25 units	We replaced ours years ago and didn't have an issue with the installation.
25- 49 units	We had this same problem only a few months ago. We had a similar setup: a wall-mounted box from decades ago. The lock on the box broke and could not be fixed by a regular locksmith for legal reasons (only the post office can fix mail boxes, we were told). We had a spare box stored in the boiler room (identical to the one that broke: who knows why we had two to begin with?) so we could get a handyman to take out the broken box and install the replacement. However, our manager had to make several phone calls to reach (this took forever) and then persuade the post master to let us replace the box ourselves and arrange to give the new master lock/key to the mail carrier. The post office prefers to get their own contractor to install a regulation-type box. So it would be a good idea to start by calling the post master.
25 – 49 units	We have, but unfortunately it was years ago outside of institutional memory, so we don't really have any wisdom to share. However, we did save the old mailboxes because they were original to the building and relocated them a while later in a storage room.
25 – 49 units	No, (our co-op) has not replaced its mailboxes...[but] we have a 5' x 5' square of metal boxes (looks like safe deposit boxes at a bank). It's built into a wood frame with a 1' shelf at hip level to hold odd, misaddressed, and oversized mail. We also have a coffee table for packages.
50+ units	Believe there were two companies at the CAI Expo handling mailboxes, etc. Don't recall their names. [Perhaps CAI DC Chapter might be able to help.]