

Secret Pup Exchange

@SecretPupExchange



CANADA SHIPPING TIPS & TRICKS

PLAN AHEAD

There are four basic factors in the cost of shipping a box: weight of the package, size (dimensional weight) of the box, destination and the service you choose. While the weight of the package is a given, sometimes the dimensions can play a big role in the shipping cost. Dimensional weight is a shipping calculation (length x width x height) that is used to account for the space that a package takes up. Example: an extra large Lamb Chop toy doesn't weigh much but takes a large box to ship. Most shipping companies use zones as a factor in cost as well. Then, of course, every company offers multiple service options...the faster you want it to arrive to the recipient, the more expensive it will be. In order to not be surprised by the cost when you ship your SPE box, we have a few suggestions:

- Keep track of the weight as you do your shopping, not just at the very end.
- Choose a box first, then purchase items, so that you stay within a size limit, rather than shopping first and then trying to find a box that will hold all the items.
- Many shipping companies offer flat rate shipping boxes. These are great in order to have a fixed shipping cost, but they're often not the cheapest way of shipping. Be sure to shop around to see where the best value is.
- All shipping companies have an online cost estimator to help know how much the shipping will be. Using those features will help save money.
- With the current labour situation with Canada Post, we do not recommend shipping with them at this time, as they could go on strike at any moment. Fortunately we have found an alternative that we have tested to help replace Canada Post!

FlagShip

We highly recommend using FlagShip to buy your shipping label! It's absolutely free to sign up and you get discounts on Purolator, UPS, FedEx, Canpar, DHL and GLS pricing. You enter your package details to get a price for multiple shipping options. As an example, a 5 pound 12"x12"x12" package from Windsor, ON to Calgary AB is \$33.94 if shipped with Canada Post Regular Parcel, but is discounted to \$26.03 if you buy a Purolator Ground label on FlagShip. If you were to purchase a label for the same package directly with Purolator it would cost you \$92.87! It's really worth the savings!!

We sent a few packages to test their services and we were satisfied with the cost, time and ease of shipping. We also have a referral link that will save you \$10 on your second shipment with FlagShip: [Click here!](#)

SCHEDULE A PICKUP

If you plan to use FlagShip to ship your package, you will have to schedule a pick up. This is done through the website and you can actually set pick up for at your home or office and request a specific time window. During our testing phase, we had a package picked up at a work office at no extra charge. This makes it even simpler to send your secret pup's box.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Before you pack your box and tape it shut, take several pictures of the contents of the package and save your shopping receipts. If a package should become lost or damaged during shipping, the photos and receipts will help make for a faster and easier insurance claim experience.

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USA SHIPPING TIPS & TRICKS

PLAN AHEAD

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- Keep track of the weight as you do your shopping, not just at the very end.
- Choose a box first, then purchase items, so that you stay within a size limit, rather than shopping first and then trying to find a box that will hold all the items.
- Try to keep all box dimensions UNDER 12 inches. Example: a 5 pound box from Colorado to Pennsylvania:
 - measures 12"x12"x12" sent USPS Ground Advantage is \$19.60
 - measures 14"x12"x12" sent USPS Ground Advantage is \$36.45
- All shipping companies have an online cost estimator to help know how much the shipping will be. Using those features will help save money.

PIRATE SHIP

We highly recommend using [PirateShip.com](https://pirateship.com) to buy your shipping label! It's absolutely free to sign up and you get discounts on both USPS and UPS pricing. You enter your package details to get a price for multiple shipping options. As an example, the 5 pound 12"x12"x12" package that is \$19.60 above, is discounted to \$12.36 if you buy the USPS label on PirateShip. It's really worth the savings!!

SCHEDULE A PICKUP

If you plan to use USPS to ship your package, but have a hard time getting to the post office during business hours, try scheduling a pickup at your home or work. It's FREE (if you don't request a specific time for the pickup) and just has to be scheduled at least one day in advance. *Scheduling pickups with FedEx and UPS usually cost extra, so keep that in kind as well.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Before you pack your box and tape it shut, take several pictures of the contents of the package and save your shopping receipts. If a package should become lost or damaged during shipping, the photos and receipts will help make for a faster and easier insurance claim experience.