



COUNTY OF LAKE TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

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AVOID PENALTIES BY UNDERSTANDING POSTMARKS

Property tax payments must be received, or United States Postal Service (USPS) postmarked, by the delinquency date to avoid penalties. Otherwise, the payment is delinquent and penalties will be imposed in accordance with State law. If the 1st installment is delinquent, a 10 percent penalty is imposed. If the 2nd installment is delinquent, a 10 percent penalty plus a \$20 cost is imposed on the 2nd installment.

For example, if the amount due for the 1st installment is \$2,000, a 10 percent penalty of \$200 will be imposed. If the amount due for the 2nd installment is \$2,000, a 10 percent penalty of \$200 and a \$20 cost (total \$220) will be imposed.

POSTMARKS are imprints the USPS applies to letters, flats, and parcels to reflect the date, name, state, and zip code of the USPS office that accepted custody of the mail. The postmark is generally applied, either by machine or by hand, with cancellation bars and is primarily used to prevent postage from being re-used.

Taxpayers who send their payments by mail are cautioned that the USPS only postmarks certain mail depending on the type of postage used. Additionally, the USPS may not postmark mail on the same day it is deposited by a taxpayer.

Mail that is postmarked

STANDARD POSTAGE STAMPS: Stamps purchased and affixed to mail as evidence of the payment of postage.

The USPS imprints the date the piece of mail was accepted into custody and cancels the postage to indicate it cannot be reused.

Mail that is not postmarked

METERED MAIL: Mail on which postage is printed directly on an envelope or label by a postage machine licensed by the USPS. Many private companies use these types of postage machines.

PRE-CANCELED STAMP: Stamps sold through a private vendor, such as stamps.com®.

AUTOMATED POSTAL CENTER (APC) STAMPS: Stamps, with or without a date, purchased from machines located within a USPS lobby.

PERMIT IMPRINT: Pre-sorted mail used by bill pay services, such as online home banking.

If you use these types of postage, the USPS will **not** postmark your mail. We will impose a 10 percent penalty and a \$20 cost, if applicable, if we do not receive your mailed payment by the delinquency date.

SAVE MONEY! SAVE TIME! PAY ONLINE!

Choose to pay online at tax.lakecountycalifornia.gov or by calling 1-866-506-8035:

Electronic payments can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and payments are accepted until 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on the delinquency date.

✓ You will no longer have to worry about mail delays or post office closures.

✓ You will no longer write a check, look for stamps, or travel to a mailbox.

Pay online for a \$3.00 flat fee when using an electronic check.

You may also pay online by using a credit card (American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or Visa) or debit card. However, there is a processing fee of 2.5% when paying by credit/debit card.