

# In Touch

HOLIDAY 2024



## Thank You and Happy Thanksgiving

USA Communications is thankful for this time of year, since it's the season set aside to celebrate gratitude. We sincerely thank you for supporting our local company and allowing us to provide your communications services. We also hope you and yours have a wonderful Thanksgiving as you gather to enjoy a feast and express thanks for your blessings.

**USA Communications**  
PO Box 389, Shellsburg, IA 52332

### Office Locations:

**Shellsburg:** 124 Main Street  
**Blairstown:** 312 Locust Street  
319-436-2224 or 1-800-248-8007  
usacomm.coop

**Hours:** M-F 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

### Office Closures:

- November 28th & 29th in observance of Thanksgiving
- December 24th & 25th in observance of Christmas

 Find Us on Facebook  
Search USA Communications



## OUR INTERNET HANDLES WHATEVER YOU COOK UP

### Speed and Reliability are the Key Ingredients

If you're the family chef, you need more than a good stove and the right pots and pans. You also need a strong internet connection to watch cooking videos, search for recipes, and order groceries.

Here's some food for thought: It might be time for a faster internet plan. USA Communications has an impressive menu of speed options, so you're sure to find what's right for your home—from the kitchen to every other room.

**CALL 319-436-2224 FOR DETAILS**





## 3 Ways You'll Benefit from eBilling

Are you still paying your USA Communications bill by writing a check and mailing it to us? If so, please consider switching to eBilling and paying electronically instead.

With eBilling, you can look forward to these benefits:

- 1. You'll increase security.** Paper bills leave you vulnerable to sensitive information being stolen and used for identity theft. Your mail could be taken from the mailbox or from a garbage can. With eBilling, you communicate securely with USA Communications via a password-protected online portal.
- 2. You'll save money.** You won't have to buy as many postage stamps or checks with eBilling.
- 3. You'll save time.** It takes awhile to find a bill, write a check, look for a stamp, and walk to the mailbox. With eBilling, you can pay online in seconds or have your bill paid automatically with Automatic Payment.

To sign up for eBilling, visit [usacomm.coop](http://usacomm.coop) and follow the easy step-by-step instructions. If you have questions, call 319-436-2224.

# Protect Your Packages From Porch Pirates

Porch pirates look for opportunities to swoop in and steal packages. Some even follow delivery trucks to do so. Fortunately, there are a variety of measures you can put in place to outsmart porch pirates and protect what's yours.

**Take advantage of package tracking.** USPS and every major delivery company can let you know when a package was placed on the truck for delivery and when it arrived at your address. Use this tracking information to quickly retrieve your package. If you can't be home at that time, ask a neighbor to retrieve it for you. Limiting the time between delivery and retrieval is a simple way to avoid porch piracy.

**Require signature on delivery.** Most delivery companies offer the option to require a signature on delivery, which means the driver can't leave the package unless you're there to sign.

**Have your packages delivered to pickup locations.** Granted, this isn't as convenient as home delivery, but the extra trip can be worth it for expensive items. For example, when you order from Amazon, you may have the option to choose a pickup location including Amazon Lockers, Amazon Counters at participating locations, and UPS AccessPoints.

**Consider getting a porch lockbox.** When you order an item online, you'll provide the code information for the delivery driver to open your porch lockbox. Some have a slot for drivers to drop small items inside. An added benefit is that your packages are protected from the weather until you're able to retrieve them.

**Use your workplace address for deliveries.** If you work outside the home, it's likely you're there for eight or more hours on weekdays — which are also prime hours for home deliveries and porch pirates. If allowed by your employer, use your workplace address rather than your home address when placing orders.

**Make it obvious you have a security system.** A security sign in your yard and a readily visible security camera can help deter many porch pirates. Keep in mind, however, that some will steal anyway, disguising their identities and moving so quickly that security footage is of limited use.

