

Christmas posting dates 2026

Last recommended posting dates for delivery before Friday 25 December. Dates as published by eBay UK, October 2026. Carriers can change them.

ROYAL MAIL

Royal Mail 48	Fri 18 Dec
Royal Mail Tracked 48	Sat 19 Dec
Royal Mail 24	Mon 21 Dec
Royal Mail Tracked 24	Mon 21 Dec
Special Delivery Guaranteed	Wed 23 Dec

PARCELFORCE

express48	Mon 21 Dec
express10, expressAM, express24	Tue 22 Dec

EVRI

Standard Parcels	Sun 20 Dec
Next Day Parcels	Mon 21 Dec

INPOST

Depot collections, out-of-home points	Sat 19 Dec
Depot collections, business and to-door 48hr / 24hr	Mon 21 / Tue 22 Dec
Trailer collections, 48hr / 24hr	Mon 21 / Tue 22 Dec
International and reseller trailer collections, 48hr and 24hr	Fri 18 Dec

Your cut-off = the carrier's last date – your handling time – 1 extra day for untracked services.
 Example: Royal Mail 48 with 1 day's handling → **last order Wednesday 16 December**.

DECEMBER CHECKLIST

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| ☐ Tue 1 Dec | Work out a cut-off for every service. Order packaging and labels. Plan staff for 18–23 and 29 Dec. |
| ☐ Mon 7 Dec | Add cut-off lines to listings and your shop. Add 1 handling day to untracked services. |
| ☐ Fri 18 – Wed 23 Dec | Last posting dates by service. Offer faster services to late buyers. |
| ☐ Fri 25 – Mon 28 Dec | No collections expected. Keep printing labels as orders arrive. |
| ☐ Tue 29 Dec | First collection after Christmas: four days of orders. |
| ☐ Mon 4 Jan 2027 | Put handling times and services back to normal. |

MESSAGE FOR ORDERS AFTER YOUR CUT-OFF

Thanks for your order. It will be dispatched tomorrow with Royal Mail 48, so it's likely to arrive after Christmas. If you need it sooner, reply to this message and we'll upgrade it to a faster service where we can.