

Postal Bombs - Be Aware!

Seven Useful Checks Before Opening Mail

If you discover a suspicious package:

- Do not open it,
- Place it on a flat surface
- Evacuate the area
- **Call 999**



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**Providers of First Aid, Fire Safety, Health & Safety,
Postal & Telephone Bomb Threat Training and Consultancy**

- **Shape**
Shape not uniform, e.g. lumps denoting possibility of batteries or switch systems.
- **Smell**
Explosives can smell. A strange smell such as almonds or marzipan should be treated with suspicion.
- **Sender**
Does the post mark tally with the sender's address if shown? Does it have a reference number you can check? Is a member of staff expecting it? Do you recognise the handwriting/post mark?
- **Size**
Is the letter big enough to contain a device – without being obvious, e.g. jiffy-bag. Does it weigh too much? Is it off balance?
- **Stain**
Is there an oily stain through the envelope, or oily fingerprints on the outside? (Some explosives weep or 'sweat' small amounts of liquid that will produce stains).
- **Seal**
Has the letter been sealed more securely than might be usual? Is there extra sealing by tape, staples, etc (denoting it contains something that must be kept in).
- **Stamps**
Are there too many stamps? (Excessive postage) if there is no stamp, has it been delivered by hand or other means?