Installing the Bolt Mounted Mailbox Pedestal

When you install a curbside or roadside mailbox, make sure that it is easily accessible to the mail carrier. By regulation a locked mailbox should be 41” to 45” from the ground or street surface up to the point of mail entry. The door should be set back 6” to 8” back from the front face of the curb or the road edge. However, you should check with your local postmaster to ensure that the mailbox is installed according to local regulations. It is important to note that it is not the responsibility of mail carriers to open mailboxes that are locked, accept keys for this purpose, or lock mailboxes after delivery of the mail.

To install the bolt mounted mailbox pedestal, begin by digging a hole for the concrete footing and then prepare the concrete. The top surface of the footing should be about 12” by 18”. See the illustration for the relative position of the rectangular footing to the pedestal and mailbox. The concrete should extend into the ground 24” or greater if your local frost line is deeper. Installing the concrete below the frost line will prevent movement during ground freezing and thawing. The bottom of the hole for the concrete footing should be filled with a depth of about 6” of gravel to promote drainage under the post. The top of the footing should be sloped for water runoff.

When digging the hole for the footing, be careful not to puncture water, sewer, or gas lines.

Hardware for attaching the pedestal to the concrete footing is not included. J-bolts are shown in the illustration as an example. The concrete footing should include reinforcing steel and four (4) 1/2” anchor studs protruding at least 1” above the concrete surface. Place the anchor studs in a 4” x 10” pattern in the concrete to align with the holes in the pedestal base.

When the concrete has cured sufficiently, install four (4) leveling nuts on the anchor studs. Set the pedestal on the leveling nuts with the four (4) anchor studs protruding through the holes in the pedestal base plate. Adjust the leveling nuts to square up the pedestal. Install four (4) nuts and washers on the anchor studs and tighten securely.