

Brick Mailbox Repair Cost: What You'll Really Pay in 2026

A Plain-Spoken Guide to Fixing, Rebuilding, and Building
Brick Mailboxes

by Travis Nech

Champion Brick Repair — championbrickrepair.com

Champion Brick Repair — championbrickrepair.com

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Chapter 1: What Your Brick Mailbox Repair Will Really Cost

That brick mailbox at the end of your driveway has a harder life than anything else on your property. Think about it. Your house walls are up off the ground, sheltered by the roof. Your mailbox sits three feet tall at the curb, taking everything: cars backing into it, kids on bikes, weed whackers chewing at the base, sprinklers soaking it every morning, and in Texas, black clay soil that moves it a quarter inch every wet season. I've been doing this fifty years, and I can tell you the mailbox is the one structure on a property where people always underestimate what fixing it costs — and always overestimate what it should have cost to build right in the first place.

So let's start where every homeowner starts: what does brick mailbox repair cost in 2026? The national numbers say repairs average around \$625, with most real jobs landing between \$500 and \$750. Minor repairs — a few cracked joints, a little repointing, some mortar patching — typically run \$150 to \$400. A full new brick mailbox, built right on a

real footing, runs \$600 to \$1,500 installed, with the national average right around \$1,050 according to Angi's 2026 cost data.

But those are national averages, and averages lie by omission. The range exists because "mailbox repair" covers everything from an hour of repointing to a three-day rebuild on a new footing. In this book, I'm going to walk you through the three levels of mailbox work — repointing, partial rebuild, full rebuild — what each one actually costs in Texas, what drives the number up or down, and how to tell whether your mailbox can be saved or needs to come down. You'll also learn the footing truth most contractors won't tell you, the USPS rules your new mailbox has to follow, and how to read a mailbox bid so you don't pay the rebuild price for a repointing job.

One thing before we start. A brick mailbox is the one masonry structure where the cost of doing it cheap is the cost of doing it twice. Almost every mailbox rebuild I do is replacing a mailbox that somebody built cheap the first time — no footing, thin mortar, brick laid on grade. The first build was cheap. The rebuild is the real price. This book will make sure you only pay once.

Chapter 2: The Three Levels of Mailbox Work

Every mailbox job falls into one of three buckets. Knowing which bucket yours is in saves you money, because each one is a different job with a different price — and contractors who blur them together are usually selling you the more expensive bucket.

Level 1: Repointing and repair. The mailbox is plumb, the footing is sound, the brick is intact — but the mortar joints are cracked, crumbling, or falling out. Maybe a few bricks are loose. The mason cuts out the failed mortar and packs in new matched mortar. Sometimes individual damaged bricks get swapped out. This is the cheapest fix, typically \$150 to \$400 for a standard mailbox, depending on how many joints are shot and how hard the brick is to match.

Level 2: Partial rebuild. The structure is mostly sound, but a section has failed — the top courses are crumbling, one side took a hit from a car, the cap is gone, or the damage goes deeper than the joints. The mason takes the mailbox down to the sound courses and rebuilds from there. Typical range: \$300 to \$1,000, depending on how far down the rebuild goes

and whether brick matching is involved. This is the bucket most people think they're in and about a third of them actually are.

Level 3: Full rebuild. The whole column comes down and goes back up — or a brand-new mailbox gets built from scratch. Reasons: the footing failed, the whole thing leans, vehicle impact destroyed it, or the original was built so poorly that no part of it is worth saving. Typical range: \$600 to \$1,500 for a standard new brick mailbox, with custom or elaborate designs running higher — up to \$3,000 or more for complex work.

Here's the honest part. The difference between Level 1 and Level 3 is often invisible from the street. A mailbox with cracked mortar and a mailbox with a failed footing can look identical to a homeowner. The only way to know which bucket you're in is to diagnose the footing and the structure — which is Chapter 4 of this book. Don't let anybody quote you a rebuild price from the curb. The diagnosis takes five minutes, and it's the difference between \$250 and \$1,200.

Chapter 3: When a Cracked Mailbox Can Be Repointed

Not every cracked mailbox is a rebuild. Here's how to tell whether yours is a repointing candidate.

Good candidates: The mailbox stands plumb — sight down the corners and they run straight. The cracks are in the mortar joints, not running through bricks. The joints are deteriorated but the bricks themselves are solid — tap them and they ring, they don't shift. The footing is intact — no leaning, no settling, no soil pulling away from the base. The damage is age and weather, not impact or movement. This is the typical twenty-year-old Texas mailbox: the mortar has given up after two decades of sun and clay movement, but the structure is fine.

What the repointing involves: The mason cuts the failed mortar joints out to a proper depth — same rule as walls, at least half an inch to an inch — cleans them, and packs in new mortar matched to the original. Loose bricks get reset. The work is all at waist height on a small structure, so it's a straightforward day's work or less. Cost: \$150 to \$400 for

most mailboxes. What moves the number inside that range is how many joints are failed, how hard the brick is to match, and whether the mailbox has decorative work — soldier courses, rowlocks, arches — that slow the mason down.

What it's not: Repointing is not structural repair. If the mailbox leans, repointing the joints is cosmetic work on a broken structure — it looks better for a season and then the lean tears the new mortar apart. If the footing is failing, no amount of new mortar fixes it. The mortar is the weak link by design; when it fails evenly all around an otherwise sound mailbox, that's just maintenance. When it fails on one side, or in a pattern, that's the structure talking — and you need Chapter 4 before you spend a dime.

Chapter 4: The Footing — The Part Nobody Shows You

Here's the thing most homeowners never hear, and it's the most expensive lesson in this book: almost every failed brick mailbox in Texas failed at the footing, not in the brick.

A proper brick mailbox needs a concrete footing — a pad of reinforced concrete under the whole structure, wide enough and deep enough to carry the load and resist soil movement. In Texas clay, that footing needs to be substantial: a pad that extends beyond the brick footprint, poured deep enough to get below the worst of the seasonal soil movement, with the column tied into it. When it's done right, the mailbox stands plumb for decades.

When it's done wrong — and I'd estimate a third of the mailboxes I see were done wrong — the brick goes up on a thin slab, or a few inches of concrete, or in the worst cases I've seen, right on grade with a shovel of mortar under the first course. These mailboxes lean within a few years. The lean cracks the joints. Somebody repoints the joints. The lean cracks them again. Somebody repoints again. And eventually

the homeowner calls me for a rebuild, having paid for two or three repointings that never had a chance.

How to check your footing: Get a shovel and dig down six inches right next to the base of the mailbox. On a properly footed mailbox, you'll hit solid concrete — the edge of the pad. On a bad one, you'll hit dirt, or a thin crumbling slab edge. That's your diagnosis. Six inches of digging tells you whether you're buying a repoint or a rebuild.

What a real footing costs in a rebuild: The footing is a significant part of a rebuild job — excavation, forming, rebar, concrete, and the labor to do it right. It's one of the main reasons a full rebuild costs what it costs, and it's the part that makes the rebuild last. A contractor who quotes a rebuild without mentioning the footing — or who plans to "reuse the existing base" without checking what it is — is quoting you a future repointing cycle, not a mailbox.

This is also why you can't price a rebuild from a photo. The footing is underground. The diagnosis is in the dirt, not the picture.

Chapter 5: Partial Rebuild — The Middle Ground

A partial rebuild is exactly what it sounds like: the mailbox comes down partway and goes back up. This is the right call when the lower courses and footing are sound but the upper section is shot.

When it applies: The base is plumb and solid — footing checks out, bottom half of the column is tight. The damage is concentrated up top: the cap course is crumbling, the top half took weather damage, a side got clipped by a vehicle, or the upper courses were laid badly and have been failing since day one. The classic case is the mailbox that was built in two pours of quality — the bottom by the original mason who cared, the top finished in a hurry on a Friday.

What it costs: \$300 to \$1,000. The range depends on how far down the takedown goes — dropping four courses is a different job than dropping twelve — and on brick matching. Here's the matching reality: if your mailbox is more than ten years old, the original brick is probably discontinued or weathered to a different shade. The mason either sources

reclaimed brick, finds a close match, or rebuilds enough courses that the transition looks intentional. Matching is craft work and it costs money. A partial rebuild that tries to butt new orange brick against twenty-year-old weathered brick looks like a patch job. A good mason tells you this upfront.

The hidden cost of partials: Sometimes you take a mailbox down six courses and discover the courses below aren't as sound as they looked. This is normal — mortar failure hides under the surface. A good contractor warns you before the work starts: "If we find more damage going down, here's how the price adjusts." Get that in writing. The surprise version of this conversation, mid-job, is how \$600 partials become \$1,200 rebuilds.

Chapter 6: Full Rebuild — What a New Brick Mailbox Costs in 2026

When the mailbox has to come all the way down — or you're starting from nothing — here's the honest 2026 math.

The numbers. Angi's 2026 data puts a professionally installed brick mailbox at \$825 to \$1,275, with the national average around \$1,050. HomeGuide's range is \$600 to \$1,500, with pre-built options at \$600 to \$1,200 installed and custom site-built designs at \$700 to \$1,500. In Texas, with our labor market, a standard site-built brick mailbox on a proper footing lands squarely in the \$800 to \$1,500 range for typical designs.

What moves it: Size is the big one — a full 2-square-foot column (the maximum most guidelines allow) costs \$1,000 to \$1,500, while a smaller 1.5-square-foot mailbox runs \$600 to \$1,100. Custom designs — arches, insets, stone accents, built-in planters — push higher. Accessories like lighting, locking inserts, and house numbers add \$50 to \$150 each. The mailbox insert itself — the actual metal box inside the brick — runs \$18 to \$198 depending on style. Permits run \$45 to

\$145 where required.

What the price includes when it's done right: Excavation and a real reinforced footing. Brick and mortar. The insert. The cap — concrete or stone, and don't skip this, because the cap is what keeps water out of the top of the column. Cleanup and haul-off of the old mailbox. A rebuild that doesn't include footing work, a proper cap, and debris haul-off isn't a complete bid — ask where those lines are.

The timeline: A standard mailbox build takes one to three days — footing pour and cure time, then the brick work. Pre-built options can go in within hours on a prepared base, at \$600 to \$1,200 installed, but you're trading design control and footing quality for speed. For a mailbox that's going to stand twenty years, the extra days are worth it.

The "depends on" part: The biggest variable in Texas is what the old mailbox leaves behind. A clean takedown on good soil is one price. A takedown where the old footing was a disaster — broken concrete, rebar everywhere, soil that needs remediation — is another. The mason can't see underground until he digs. Honest bids say so.

Chapter 7: The USPS Rules Your Mailbox Has to Follow

Here's a part of the job most masons never mention and most homeowners never think about until the carrier leaves a note: the United States Postal Service has placement rules, and your brick mailbox has to follow them.

Height: The bottom of the mailbox — the point of mail entry — must be 41 to 45 inches above the road surface. Not your estimate, not close enough — 41 to 45. This is measured from the road, not from your yard, and the difference matters on sloped streets.

Setback: The mailbox door must sit 6 to 8 inches back from the face of the curb or the edge of the road. Too close and it's a hazard — and in snow states, a plow target. Too far back and the carrier can't reach it from the vehicle.

Placement: On the right-hand side of the road in the carrier's direction of travel. House numbers clearly visible, at least an inch tall. And the Postal Service recommends contacting your local post office before you erect or replace a mailbox — which costs nothing and prevents the nightmare of building a

beautiful mailbox the carrier refuses to serve.

Why this matters for your rebuild: A lot of old Texas mailboxes were built wherever the builder felt like putting them — too high, too low, too far from the curb. When you rebuild, you rebuild to current spec. A mason who doesn't know the 41-to-45 and 6-to-8 numbers is a mason who builds mailboxes by habit, not by standard. Ask him. The answer takes five seconds and tells you whether he's done this before.

One more thing, and it matters in Texas: some municipalities restrict or prohibit brick mailboxes near the roadway because of the crash hazard — a brick column doesn't yield the way a post does. Check with your city before you build. The [USPS mailbox guidelines](<https://www.usps.com>) are the federal standard; your city's rules sit on top of them.

Chapter 8: Styles, Designs, and What the Options Cost

Not every brick mailbox is a plain column. When you're building new — or rebuilding — the design choices change the price. Here's the honest menu.

The single column. The standard: a brick pier, roughly 2 feet square, with a cap and an insert. This is the \$800 to \$1,500 rebuild from Chapter 6. Simple, classic, matches any house. Most HOAs accept it without a blink.

The double column with arch or beam. Two piers with a connecting arch or lintel beam across the top, the box mounted in the middle. It's the upscale look — and it's roughly double the brick, double the footing, and real structural thinking on the span. Expect \$1,500 to \$3,000 depending on the span and detailing. The arch has to be built right — a flat arch with proper voussoirs, not a row of bricks hoping for the best — or it cracks within a few years.

Wing walls. Short brick walls extending from the column on one or both sides — decorative, and useful for mounting address numbers or lighting. Each wing adds a few hundred

dollars: more footing, more brick, more cap. They also add failure points — every wing is another footing that can settle independently, so they need to be tied in properly.

The add-ons: A stone or cast-stone cap instead of plain concrete — \$100 to \$300 more, and worth it for the look and the overhang. Built-in lighting — low-voltage fixtures in the column or cap — \$50 to \$150 per fixture plus the wiring run. A locking insert for mail security — \$50 to \$150 over a standard box. A planter built into the design — \$100 to \$200 in additional masonry. House numbers set in tile or cast metal — \$20 to \$80.

The design rule: Every decorative element is another thing that can fail. An arch that isn't engineered cracks. A planter that holds soil against brick feeds moisture into the wall — line it or regret it. Lighting that isn't weatherproofed dies in the first hard rain. None of this means don't build beautifully — it means build beautifully with a mason who engineers the pretty parts, not just the structural ones. The cheapest fancy mailbox is the one whose arch is still standing in ten years.

HOA reality check: If your HOA mandates a specific style — and many Texas HOAs do, down to the brick color and cap material — the design decision is made for you. Bring the

spec to every bidder. A mailbox built to an HOA standard that the HOA then rejects is the most expensive mailbox of all.

Chapter 9: Matching the Brick — The Craft Half of the Job

Brick matching is where mailbox work separates masons from bricklayers. Anybody can lay a straight course. Matching twenty-year-old weathered brick takes an eye.

The problem: Brick weathers. Twenty years of Texas sun fades the face, rain changes the tone, and the original brick has almost certainly been discontinued — brick manufacturers change lines the way car makers change models. The new brick that matches the name on the old invoice doesn't match the brick on your mailbox.

The solutions, in order of quality: Best is reclaimed brick — salvaged units from the same era, which have weathered the same way. Good masonry suppliers in DFW keep reclaimed stock, and a good mason knows who has what. Second best is a close new match with weathering in mind — the mason picks a brick that matches where your brick will be in five years, not where it is today. Third, on partial rebuilds, is the transition course — rebuilding enough courses that the change reads as design, not patch.

What it costs: Matching adds real money to a job. Sourcing reclaimed brick takes time and the units cost more than new. A mason who says "I'll match it" without explaining how is guessing. A mason who says "your brick is discontinued, here's what I've found, here are two samples, pick one" is matching.

The honest alternative: Sometimes the right answer is that matching isn't worth it — the old brick is too far gone, too unusual, or too expensive to source, and the mailbox looks better fully rebuilt in a complementary brick. A full rebuild in a brick that suits the house costs less than a heroic matching job on a partial, and it looks better. This is a conversation, not a upsell — and a mason who has it with you is working for you, not his invoice.

Chapter 10: The Cap, the Insert, and the Details That Decide Longevity

A brick mailbox is a column with three parts that matter more than the brick: the cap on top, the insert inside, and the footing below. The footing got its chapter. Here's the other two.

The cap. The cap is the concrete or stone lid on top of the column, and it's the single most important weatherproofing on the whole structure. Water gets into brickwork from the top down — rain hits the cap, and if the cap is cracked, missing, or just a thin mortar wash, water goes straight down the core of the column and destroys it from the inside. I've taken down mailboxes where the outside looked fine and the inside was mush. The cap did it. A proper cap overhangs the brick slightly so water drips clear, it's thick enough not to crack, and it's sealed at the joint. On a rebuild, the cap is non-negotiable. On a repair, if the cap is shot, replacing it is the highest-value money on the job — often under \$100 in materials and it stops the damage at its source.

The insert. The metal mailbox inside the brick — that's the

insert, \$18 to \$198 depending on style. Standard galvanized, locking, oversized for packages — your call. The insert is a wear item; it rusts, the door hinge fails, the flag breaks. Replacing an insert in an existing brick column is a small job — cut out the old, set the new, repoint around it. But here's what I see constantly: the insert rusts through, water pours into the column through the rust holes, and the brickwork fails from the inside out. Check your insert when you check your joints. A \$50 insert replacement beats a \$900 rebuild.

The address numbers. USPS wants them visible, at least an inch tall. Beyond the rule, they're the finishing detail that makes a rebuild look intentional. Cast numbers set in mortar, tile numbers, metal numbers on the cap — pick something that'll outlast the paint.

Chapter 11: Reading a Mailbox Bid — and Spotting the Cheap One

Mailbox bids are where the too-cheap game gets played hardest, because the job is small enough that homeowners don't scrutinize it and big enough that the skips add up.

The honest bid has: the level of work named — repoint, partial, or full rebuild. The scope in plain language — how many courses, which sides, what comes down. The footing spec on a rebuild — depth, reinforcement, dimensions. The brick and mortar spec — what brick, what mortar type, how matching is handled. The cap and insert — included or not, what kind. Haul-off of debris. A price, a schedule, and a warranty in writing.

The too-cheap bid is missing at least two of those. The classics:

- **No footing mentioned on a rebuild.** He's laying brick on your old broken base, or pouring a bag of quick-set in a shallow hole. The mailbox leans in three years and you're calling somebody else.
- **"Match existing brick" with no method.** One bag of

whatever the yard had. Your mailbox gets racing stripes.

- **No cap line.** He's washing mortar over the top and calling it a cap. Water gets in by next spring.
- **No haul-off.** The old mailbox chunks are your problem now.
- **Cash price, no paper.** No contract, no warranty, no recourse.

The price sniff test: If a full rebuild bid comes in under \$600, something structural is being skipped — usually the footing. If a repoint bid comes in under \$150, he's not cutting joints, he's smearing. The honest middle for a standard Texas mailbox rebuild is \$800 to \$1,500. That's the real price of doing it once.

Chapter 12: When a Car Hits Your Mailbox

It happens constantly. Texas suburbs, brick mailbox at the curb, somebody's teenager, somebody's delivery driver, somebody's Saturday night. The mailbox is in chunks in the yard. Now what.

First, the practical: Photograph everything before you touch it. If you know who hit it, get their insurance information — this is a property damage claim, and a brick mailbox rebuild is a legitimate claim at \$800 to \$1,500 plus. If it was a hit and run, your own homeowner's policy may cover it minus your deductible — do the math on whether the claim is worth it, because a \$1,000 mailbox against a \$1,000 deductible is a wash.

Second, the salvage question: Homeowners always ask whether the old bricks can be reused to save money. Sometimes. If the bricks are intact — not cracked, not shattered — they can be cleaned of old mortar and relaid. Cleaning brick is labor-intensive, so the savings are real but modest: you save the material cost of new brick, which on a mailbox is the smallest part of the job anyway. The labor to

clean a hundred bricks often costs more than a hundred new bricks. Where salvage pays is matching — your original brick, cleaned and relaid, matches itself perfectly. A good mason will tell you honestly whether the pile in your yard is worth cleaning or worth hauling.

Third, the rebuild decision: A car-hit mailbox is almost always a full rebuild — the impact that scatters brick also destroys the footing and shifts whatever's left. Don't let anybody talk you into "straightening" a car-hit column. The structure took thousands of pounds of lateral force. It comes down and goes back up on a new footing.

The insurance bid: Get the bid in writing with line items — takedown and haul-off, footing, brick, mortar, cap, insert. Insurance adjusters pay line items. A one-line "\$1,200 for mailbox" bid gets questioned; a detailed scope gets paid.

Chapter 13: HOAs, Cities, and the Rules

Around Your Mailbox

In Texas suburbs, your mailbox answers to more authorities than just the USPS.

HOAs are the big one. Many DFW-area HOAs specify mailbox design — brick type, color, height, style, sometimes down to the cap material. Some require approval before you rebuild. Some fine you for a leaning mailbox — and leaning mailboxes are the number one HOA complaint I hear about, because the mailbox is the first thing every neighbor sees. Before you rebuild, read your HOA's architectural guidelines. Building a beautiful mailbox the HOA rejects is an expensive way to learn the rules. If your HOA requires a specific look, tell your mason upfront — matching an HOA spec is a different job than matching your house.

Cities handle the right-of-way. Your mailbox sits near the street, which means it's near or in the public right-of-way, and cities have rules about what goes there. Some Texas cities restrict brick mailboxes outright near the roadway — the crash-safety logic being that a brick column is an unyielding

object and a car that hits one stops hard. Check before you build. A quick call to the city's building or public works department settles it.

Permits run \$45 to \$145 where required. Not every city requires one for a mailbox, but some do, and the fine for building without one costs more than the permit. Your mason should know your city's rule. If he doesn't, that's information about your mason.

Chapter 14: The Lean — When the Mailbox Isn't Straight

A leaning mailbox deserves its own chapter because it's the most misdiagnosed mailbox problem in Texas — and because I wrote a whole separate book about it. The short version belongs here, because lean affects cost directly.

A leaning brick mailbox is almost never a brick problem. It's a footing and soil problem. Texas clay swells when wet and shrinks when dry, and a shallow or undersized footing rides that movement like a boat. The column tilts. The mortar cracks on the tension side. And here's the expensive mistake: repointing the cracked joints on a leaning mailbox. The lean is still there. The new mortar cracks. You've paid for cosmetics on a structural failure.

The cost fork: A slight lean on a sound footing can sometimes be corrected — excavate, stabilize, underpin — for a few hundred dollars. A real lean on a failed footing means a rebuild, because you can't straighten a column whose foundation is gone. The diagnosis is the footing check from Chapter 4: dig down six inches next to the base and see

what's there. No footing, no straightening — rebuild.

I go deep on the soil mechanics, the diagnosis, and the straightening methods that actually hold in Texas clay in my book on leaning mailboxes — it's in the free library with this one. If your mailbox leans, read that before you spend anything. The five minutes of diagnosis in that book will save you from paying for the wrong fix.

Chapter 15: DIY — What You Can Do and What You Shouldn't

I'll be straight: a brick mailbox is one of the more DIY-tempting masonry projects, and one of the more DIY-regretted ones.

What you can reasonably do yourself: Repointing a sound mailbox — if it's plumb, the footing's good, and it's just tired mortar — is within reach of a careful homeowner. The materials are cheap, the structure is small and at a comfortable height, and the stakes are low. Cut the failed joints properly, match the mortar, tool it clean. Replacing an insert is a straightforward afternoon. Replacing a cap is doable if you're comfortable with mortar work.

What you shouldn't: Laying a structural column on a footing you poured yourself, unless you genuinely know what you're doing. The footing is the whole job — get it wrong and the mailbox leans, and now you've spent your weekends building a future rebuild. Full rebuilds belong to masons. Partial rebuilds belong to masons. Anything involving matching brick on a visible structure belongs to somebody with an eye

for it — bad matching is permanent and it's the first thing everyone sees.

The honest math on DIY: The materials for a mailbox rebuild are a few hundred dollars — brick, mortar, concrete, an insert. The rest of the \$800 to \$1,500 is labor, skill, and the footing done right. If your time is free and your skill is real, DIY saves real money. If your skill is YouTube-deep, the mason's price is cheaper than the rebuild of your rebuild. I've taken down more than a few homeowner-built mailboxes. The owners always say the same thing: "I thought it would be easier."

Chapter 16: Walk Your Own Mailbox — A Five-Minute Inspection

Before you call anybody, spend five minutes at your mailbox. This is the inspection that tells you which bucket you're in.

Step one: sight the corners. Stand back ten feet and sight up each corner of the column. Straight lines mean a sound structure. Any lean, any bow, any twist — note the direction. Even a slight lean changes the job from repoint to structural.

Step two: check the joints. Drag a screwdriver firmly across mortar joints at the top, middle, and base. Sound mortar resists. Failed mortar powders and flakes. Note where it fails — all around evenly is age; one side only is movement.

Step three: check the bricks. Tap them. Solid bricks ring. Loose bricks shift or sound hollow. Cracked bricks — cracks running through the brick itself, not just the joint — get marked for replacement.

Step four: check the cap. Look at the top. Is the cap intact, or cracked, or missing? A failed cap means water's been going down the core — the inside may be worse than the outside.

Step five: dig the footing. Shovel, six inches down, right next to the base. Concrete pad or dirt? This is the diagnosis that matters most.

Step six: check the insert. Open the door. Rust? Hinge working? Flag intact? Water stains inside the box mean water's getting into the column.

Write down what you find. When the mason arrives, hand him your notes. A homeowner who's done the walk gets better bids — and you'll know immediately whether his diagnosis matches yours. If he quotes a rebuild and your footing check found solid concrete and plumb corners, ask him to explain. Specific answers are honest. Vague answers are a warning.

Chapter 17: Hiring Right — Mailbox Work in North Texas

You've got the numbers, the buckets, and the inspection. Here's how to close it out.

Get three bids. For mailbox work, make sure at least one of them is from a mason — not a handyman, not a landscaper who "also does brick." Mailbox columns are small, but they're structural masonry: footing, load, plumb, weatherproofing. The skill is in the foundation work as much as the brick.

Ask every bidder the same questions: What level of work is this — repoint, partial, or full? What's the footing spec? How are you matching the brick? Is the cap included, and what kind? Is haul-off included? What's the warranty, in writing?

Check the USPS numbers — 41 to 45 inches, 6 to 8 inches back. If the bidder doesn't know them, he's guessing on placement.

Get everything in writing: scope, footing spec, brick and mortar spec, cap and insert, haul-off, schedule, price, payment terms, warranty. Never pay the full amount upfront.

A deposit for materials is normal; the balance on completion is the rule.

And hire somebody who knows Texas clay. The footing that holds a mailbox in sandy soil won't hold one in black clay. Local knowledge is the difference between a mailbox that stands twenty years and one that leans in five.

If you're in the Fort Worth–Dallas area and want a straight bid on [brick mailbox repair](<https://championbrickrepair.com>) — repoint, partial, or full rebuild — that's what we do. And if you want to keep learning before you call anybody, my [free brick repair books] (<https://metro-foundation-repair.web.app/free-books/>) cover the rest of what your masonry is trying to tell you.

The cheapest mailbox is the one you only pay for once. Build it on a real footing, cap it right, and it'll outlast the mortgage.

Chapter 18: Questions Homeowners Ask Me

Does homeowners insurance cover mailbox repair?

Sometimes — and more often than it covers other masonry work, because mailboxes get hit by cars. Vehicle impact is sudden accidental damage, which is what insurance covers. Age-related mortar failure is maintenance, which it doesn't. If a car hit it, file the claim. If it's just old, that's on you.

Can you move a brick mailbox? Not practically. You can tear it down and build a new one in the new location, but there's no moving a brick column — it's one rigid structure bonded to its footing. A "move" is a rebuild with extra demolition. Price it that way.

How long does a brick mailbox last? Built right — real footing, good mortar, solid cap — decades. Thirty, forty years isn't unusual. Built wrong — no footing, thin cap — five to ten before the lean or the water gets it. The lifespan is decided at construction, which is why the footing chapter matters more than any other chapter in this book.

My HOA says my mailbox has to match the others. Can you do that? Usually, yes — bring the HOA spec and photos

of the neighboring mailboxes. Matching an HOA standard is bread-and-butter work. What costs extra is when the HOA spec calls for a discontinued brick — then we're into reclaimed sourcing, and I'll tell you upfront what that adds.

Should I just replace it with a post mailbox instead? Your call, and plenty of people do — a post mailbox costs a fraction of a brick rebuild. But check your HOA first, because many Texas HOAs require brick. And know what you're giving up: a brick mailbox is curb appeal and perceived value. On a \$400,000 house, the \$1,200 brick mailbox earns its keep every day.

The mortar is fine but the mailbox looks stained and ugly. What then? Cleaning. Brick can be washed — carefully, with the right cleaners, never a pressure washer on full blast against old mortar. Sometimes what looks like failure is just twenty years of grime, sprinkler mineral deposits, and mildew. A proper cleaning runs a fraction of a repoint and transforms the look. But if the screwdriver test fails, cleaning is lipstick — do the repoint.

Can the mail carrier refuse to deliver to my mailbox? Yes — if it's unsafe to approach, improperly placed, or the box is damaged to the point mail can't be secured. A leaning

column, a door that won't close, a box at the wrong height — any of these can get you a notice. Rebuilding to spec solves all of it.

A Final Word Before You Call

Your mailbox is the smallest structure on your property and the most public one. Every neighbor, every delivery driver, every buyer who slows down in front of your house sees it. It's worth doing right.

The formula is simple: diagnose the footing before you spend anything. Repoint what's sound. Rebuild what's not — on a real footing, with a real cap, to USPS spec. Get it in writing. Pay the honest price once.

Your mailbox has been talking. Now you speak the language.

About the Author

Travis Nech has spent 50 years in Texas brick, masonry, and foundation work. He owns [Champion Brick Repair](<https://championbrickrepair.com>) — (817) 900-6324 — [Metro Foundation Repair](<https://metrofoundationrepair.com>) — (817) 670-4474 — and the [LintelLOCK](<https://lintlerepair.com>) lintel system — (469) 730-0650. All his books are free at [Travis Nech's Free Book

Library](<https://metro-foundation-repair.web.app/free-books/>).