

## Stamps.com Account

Does anyone use stamps.com or a similar service? If so, I am wondering what your experience has been.

Thanks!

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I've been using Stamps.com for years. When they bumped their monthly rates I almost quit, but then was offered a \$7.99/month plan where the main limitation is that I cannot have more than \$25 in my postage account at one time. It's not a big deal: I just have to replenish more frequently.

I like having the option of printing postage directly on envelopes, using labels, or printing my own stamps. It's not perfect, but is way, way better than having to deal with paper stamps.

Michael Koenecke, Texas

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I have used stamps.com for over 10 years now. Very satisfied. Not the cheapest (monthly fee of \$15.99 plus postage charges) but super easy to use.

Greg Goonan

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We've been using it for years as well. The \$15.99 monthly fee is well worth it in terms of standing in line at the post office (we mail out lots of large envelopes with real estate documents).

If you have lots of certified, we use [www.certifiedmaillabels.com](http://www.certifiedmaillabels.com)

Peter T. Clark, Massachusetts

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You can also get certified mail labels from Stamps.com and print them from a regular printer. I'm a solo with an office share, and am able to handle all of my mail by printing my own postage and putting it in the firm's outgoing mail.

Suzanne Hawkins

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I was going to ask: what is the advantage of having a separate account for certified mail?

Shlomo Himmel, New Jersey

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I'm also a longtime user. We like having a shared address book so a name is entered only once and it is checked against the USPS database to confirm it was entered correctly. Also, by using stamps.com I pay \$.45.5 for first class mail, while a stamp is \$.46. My staff can also do overseas postage too as well as CRRR from the comfort of their desks.

Deb Matthews, Virginia

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No need to pay a monthly fee to stamps.com if you purchase a Dymo Twin Turbo label printer and sign up for the Indicia account. Print all the postage you want (albeit it is on their labels) <-which I believe are about the same cost as stamps.com but I haven't checked cuz I got a closeout sale of 6 rolls at 75% off years ago and I'm not even through 2 of them yet.

Andrea Cannavina (not a lawyer)

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I use a separate account with [www.certifiedmaillabels.com](http://www.certifiedmaillabels.com) because stamps.com monthly plan is more expensive - more than the basic \$15.99 fee - in order to do certified mail. Also when we do certified, they tend to be a large quantity for a particular project, like notifying abutters of a zoning hearing. [www.certifiedmaillabels.com](http://www.certifiedmaillabels.com) allows us to use the electronic receipt rather than the old fashioned green signature cards which saves roughly \$1.50 each.

Peter T. Clark

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This sounds like a good, budget-friendly idea. I don't do a huge volume of mailing, but in some ways that makes the absurdly long wait at the post office even worse.

Shlomo Himmel

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I've been using Stamps.com for more than 16 years - since they were late beta. We originally had the "cheap" account, and used it mostly for sending Christmas cards and the like.

A quick look at the postage spending report says I spent \$35.00 on postage in 1999. 2003 was my peak year - probably because we notified friends we were moving, plus holiday cards, etc.; I spent \$1,079 on postage that year.

The fee for being able to use Certified is higher - \$24.99/month, but since most of the service I do (corporations) is via certified, it's worth it. I bumped up my account shortly after I started my practice, and haven't regretted it.

Note that you don't have to use the green card for Certified Mail; they have labels that are three to a sheet that don't have a green card, but since I need to file the green card for service of process, it's worth it to me for the form filling, receipt card, etc. Also, being able to track and report all postage printed from one place is helpful. If you have a USB scale, you can integrate that directly. You can also print postage from within applications, such as QuickBooks, Outlook, and Word.

Most of my First Class is printed directly on the envelope for letters; for large envelopes I use 4-up labels printed with my logo and return address.

Richard J. Rutledge, Jr., North Carolina

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Stamps.com does not supply you with a scale, correct? I can't seem to find that info on their site.

Shlomo Himmel

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They did for me: twice, I think. Part of a promotion. You might call and inquire whether they'd send you one if you sign up.

Michael Koenecke

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This is also what I use. Free account, you do pay for the labels. But not having to stand in line is worth it.

For certified mail I go to the post office. I only have to send certified for Demands for UM/UIM Arbitrations. The one time I used e-receipt, the email I received said, "no signature on file" which I didn't want to mess with, because of antiquated CA code.

So I resent it with the green cards and will continue to do so.

Joseph D. Dang, California

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Don't forget to look into what happens if you want to stop using the service, though. A couple of colleagues were complaining about how hard it was to stop using a service like Stamps.com (I don't know if it was stamps.com itself or a similar company) between hassle of sending the postage meter back to continuing to receive bills for the service after the service was discontinued. I'm not saying not to use stamps. com, just check to make sure there are no surprises :)

Naomi C. Fujimoto, Hawaii

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I use endicia and pay 99 a year for the ability to manipulate and create stamps of any value and use aftermarket stamp rolls in my Dymo thermal printer. I pull up the program, input the weight etc, and print the stamp. I have used this since 2011 or so...

P. Jayson Thibodaux, Washington

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I just get certified windowed envelopes. That way, to send certified mail, I just print out a single page on my laser printer, trifold it, stick it in the envelope with address showing through window. Makes sending certified mail a snap.

I get my envelopes from here:

<http://www.buycertifiedmailenvelopes.com/>

And stamps.com has saved me a huge amount of time. But it really depends on how many mailpieces you send out each month. For me, it's well worth the monthly fee.

Eugene Lee, California

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I really like the pre-purchased certified labels option - didn't know that existed!

Thanks everyone for your feedback - it was all very helpful!

Shlomo Himmel