

## Mailbox Support Design:

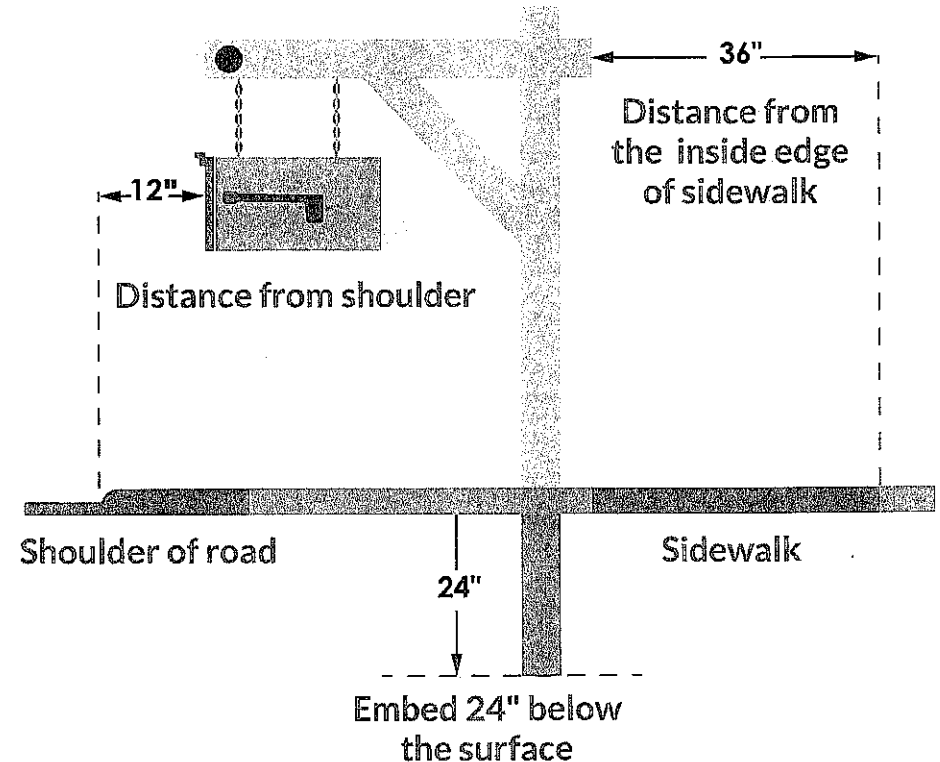
In many cases, it is best to use an extended arm post with a free-swinging suspended mailbox (*fig. b*). This allows snowplows to sweep near or under the box without damage, and provides easy access for your mail carrier. Place a red reflector on the arm at the point closest to the road. This will help your local snowfighter see and avoid your mailbox during winter storms.

## Offsets from Roads:

Mailboxes should be set back from the edge of the shoulder, regardless of whether the shoulder is gravel or paved. In other words, the face of the mailbox should be at least one foot back from the edge of the normally plowed surface of the highway or the face of curb (*fig. b*). Greater offset distances are encouraged so the mail carrier can move out of traffic and to minimize potential damage to your mailbox.

A mailbox in a sidewalk should leave at least 36 inches behind the back of the box or the post, whichever is located the furthest from the road (*fig. b*).

Mailbox Support Design and Road Offsets



(*fig. b*)

## Post Size, Type, and Embedment:

Mailbox posts must be sturdy enough to hold up the mailbox in all types of weather. However, they can't be so rugged that they present a hazard to vehicles that leave the road. **If a mailbox support is struck by a vehicle, it must easily break away.** Therefore, the following types of posts are recommended:

- 4" x 4" wooden posts embedded two feet into the ground (*fig. c*). Larger wooden posts (4" x 6" or 6" x 6") may be used only if the post is drilled through with an appropriate spade bit to create a shear plane (*fig. d*).
- One-inch to two-inch round diameter steel or aluminum pipe, or standard U-channel post embedded two feet into the ground (*fig. e*).

## Unacceptable Mailbox Supports Include:

- anything filled with concrete,
- masonry and stone structures,
- heavy steel structures, and
- most objects that were intended for other uses (e.g., antique plows, I-beams, etc.).

Mailboxes, attachments or support systems not consistent with this policy are considered **deadly fixed objects** and are in violation of Maine law (23 MRSA §1401-A). When MaineDOT sees this type of installation, the owner will be informed and immediate removal will be requested. If the property owner doesn't comply with this request, MaineDOT may remove the installation and seek reimbursement from the property owner for all costs.

## Acceptable Mailbox Supports

