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Almost everyone knows their five digit ZIP code, and probably a few others within their city, but what's up with the extra four digits you sometimes see on mail?Let's start with those first five digits you're already familiar with. In the early 1960s, the U.S. Postal Service could see that the old Postal Delivery Zone System was outdated and couldn't handle increasing mail volume and urban and suburban expansion. To keep the mail moving efficiently, the Postal Service introduced the Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) in 1963. A five-digit code was assigned to every address in the country—the first designated a broad geographical area or group of states ("1," for example covers New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware), the next two designated a region or large city in that area ("91" covers Philadelphia) and the last two represented a smaller delivery zone or group of delivery addresses in that region.Over the next two decades the ZIP system became strained, too, and in 1983, the Postal Service expanded it to create the ZIP+4 system, tacking on an extra four digits at the end of the old codes. These new digits identified an area—like a group of apartments or office buildings—or a high-volume mail receiver within a five-digit delivery zone to help with mail sorting and delivery. The sixth and seventh digits of a ZIP+4 indicate a "delivery sector," like a group of streets, P.O. boxes, a group of buildings, or even a single high-rise building. The eighth and ninth digits designate a "delivery segment," like a specific side of a street, a floor in an office or apartment building, or a specific department within a large office.Getting the public on board with the regular old ZIP codes had been hard enough (some people were annoyed they had another number to remember in addition to telephone area codes and their Social Security number, while others thought that being represented by a number was dehumanizing and un-American), so the ZIP+4 wasn't caught on with people. Fortunately, around the time the expanded codes were implemented, the technology available to the post office meant that people didn't have to remember or use the full code. Automatic mail sorting systems apply a Postnet barcode to mail items that corresponds to a full code, and multi-line optical character readers can determine the correct ZIP+4 from the barcode and written address. Marketing Mail Reach your target audience and optimize your customer relationships. Use these tracking services to keep up with your mailing. Mail Tracking & Reporting provides access to the following services: Whether you've just moved into your first apartment in Seattle or are relocating to a new rental in Austin, you might have noticed four extra numbers at the end of a ZIP code. These ZIP+4 codes help pinpoint specific locations within a ZIP code, improving mail accuracy and delivery speed. But do you really need to use them? And how do they work? Here's what you need to know. How do ZIP codes work and why ZIP+4 was added ZIP codes were introduced in 1963 to improve mail efficiency. Each digit has geographic significance: The first number (0-9) represents a broad U.S. region, starting at 0 in the East and increasing to 9 on the West Coast. The next two numbers narrow it down to a specific area, like a city or town. The last two digits identify an individual post office or delivery zone. By 1983, as cities grew and mail volume increased, the five-digit system needed more precision. The USPS introduced ZIP+4 codes, an extension that identifies exact buildings, streets, or even specific apartments within a ZIP code. Why renters should use a ZIP+4 code If you're renting, using the correct ZIP+4 code can help with: Ensuring mail reaches your specific unit – Especially in apartment buildings where multiple units share the same ZIP code. Faster deliveries for online orders – ZIP+4 codes help USPS sort packages more efficiently, potentially reducing shipping times. Avoiding missed bills or documents – Important mail like lease agreements, utility bills, and credit cards are less likely to be misdelivered. Setting up utilities and renter's insurance – Some service providers use ZIP+4 codes for address verification. How to write a ZIP+4 code correctly When including a ZIP+4 code with your address, it's important to format your address properly to ensure smooth processing by the USPS. The extra four-digit extension should be written after the standard five-digit ZIP code, separated by a hyphen. Correct ZIP+4 Format:1234 Main Street Seattle, WA 98101-1234 Always separate the five-digit ZIP code from the four-digit extension with a hyphen. How can I find my ZIP+4 code? As a renter, ensuring you use the correct ZIP+4 code can save you headaches down the line. Here's how to find yours: Use an online ZIP+4 lookup tool to get the exact code for your address. Check the USPS ZIP Code Lookup tool, which provides the most up-to-date information. Ask your landlord or property manager—they often have the correct ZIP+4 for the building. Do ZIP+4 codes change? Yes, ZIP+4 codes can change over time due to: New apartment buildings or changes in delivery routes. Reorganization of postal service areas to manage mail volume. Adjustments based on staffing and logistics at local post offices. If you've recently moved or switched apartments within the same building, double-check your ZIP+4 code to avoid mail mix-ups. ZIP+4 code FAQs: Extra questions you might have Do I have to use a ZIP+4 code when mailing something? No, ZIP+4 codes are optional for most mail, but using them can help ensure faster and more accurate delivery. They are especially useful in high-density areas like apartment buildings and business districts. Can two addresses have the same ZIP+4 code? No, each ZIP+4 code is unique. However, it still provides a more precise location than a standard five-digit ZIP code. Why do some websites automatically add a ZIP+4 code to my address? Many online forms and shipping services use address validation tools that pull ZIP+4 codes from USPS databases. This ensures the most accurate delivery information is used for orders, billing, and service verification. Does every apartment in a complex have a different ZIP+4 code? Not necessarily. Some apartment buildings assign different ZIP+4 codes to individual units, while others share a single ZIP+4 for the entire complex or specific sections. How often do ZIP+4 codes change? ZIP+4 codes can change due to postal route adjustments, new developments, or reorganizations within the USPS. It's always a good idea to check your ZIP+4 when moving or updating your address. Can ZIP+4 codes help with emergency services? Yes, ZIP+4 codes can assist in more precise location tracking, which may be useful for emergency response teams in large buildings or complex addresses. However, they are not a replacement for full address details in emergency situations. Disclaimer: USPS® cannot guarantee that the address shown here is the actual location of the business. Please verify the address before sending your mail. If more than one address matches the information provided, try narrowing your search by entering a street address and, if applicable, a unit number. Edit and search again. You probably learned your ZIP code in kindergarten when you learned your address, how to tie your shoes, and how to tell time. It's an important number. It's how you get your mail. In some cases, it distinguishes your address from another address in the city with the same street name. Maybe it's a number that's been even more significant for you because it gives you solidarity with other people in your area. Regardless, you know your 5-digit ZIP code. But what's up with those random 4 digits you sometimes find on the end of it? Ready to figure out what the last 4 digits of ZIP codes mean? Let's go. First, the ZIP Code Explained Before the last 4 digits on ZIP codes are explained, let's have a refresher on the ZIP code itself. The ZIP code came to be in the early 1960s when mail volume was increasing substantially in urban and suburban areas. Rapid growth put the U.S. Postal Service under massive pressure, but it couldn't grind to a halt to figure out what to do next. To help deal with the increased amount of mail, the US. Postal Service announced the introduction of the Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP). Hence, the ZIP code. 5-digit codes were assigned to all addresses in the United States. The first digit relates to a large area, like a state or group of states. For example, ZIP codes in Minnesota and Wisconsin start with "5" and New York, Delaware, and Pennsylvania all share a "1". The second digit refers to a city or region, and the final two numbers represent a small group of addresses within the region. Last 4 Digits on ZIP Codes The United States continued to grow and cities continued to sprawl. By the 1980s, the ZIP system wasn't enough to keep the mail moving. Naturally, the Postal Service decided to add more numbers. These are the 4 numbers you see today on some pieces of mail that represent the ZIP+4 codes. The sixth and seventh number, which are added after a hyphen, indicate a group of buildings, streets, boxes, or even a large building with a lot of delivery points. This, of course, narrows down the ZIP code further, making it easier than ever to sort and deliver mail. But the sixth and seventh number aren't enough. The final two digits (eight and nine) break it down further. These digits represent what is called a "delivery segment." A delivery segment is a micro-representation of an area; it can represent an area as small as a specific department in a big office building. Why Are We Just Learning About This? As with most developments in efficiency, change is slow. People who didn't work for the Post Service didn't care about ZIP codes to begin with and found the addition of another critical number to their lives intrusive. So, when the last 4 digits on ZIP codes were made to become bothered to learn why. Around the same time as the launch of ZIP+4, the Postal System was availing of new technologies that helped them sort and deliver mail faster. Because USPS could use Postnet barcode technology to avoid human error, Americans were saved from having to remember even more numbers just to send a letter or pay their bills. Have any USPS trivia to share? Leave it in the comments below. Mark Heald is the Managing Editor of Sporcle.com. He enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, and bemoaning the fact the Sonics left Seattle. Comments comments Mailer News Get news and updates online. Verify important mailing data with these applications. PostalOne!® Get consistent verification online with detailed profiles of each mailing job and status reports. MERLIN® Verifies against the standards set in the DMM for discounts, sorting, barcodes and piece counts. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Understanding the ZIP+4 Code System in the United States In the intricate world of postal services, every detail counts. The ZIP+4 Code, an extension of the 5-digit ZIP Code, is one such detail that ensures mail delivery with precision and speed. This 4-digit code, known as the "plus-four," is the key to a smoother, faster sorting process, providing a level of accuracy that benefits both senders and recipients alike. Houston ZipCode Map Efficient Mail Sorting with the Plus-Four The plus-four code plays a vital role in the efficient sorting of mail. It allows postal services to break down regions into smaller segments, such as city blocks or individual buildings, simplifying the delivery process. This granularity means that each delivery point gets a unique identifier, drastically reducing the chances of misdelivered mail. Streamlining Delivery Routes By utilizing the additional four digits, postal carriers can streamline their delivery routes. This specificity can lead to cost savings for postal services and faster delivery times for customers. With the plus-four, the mail system operates more efficiently, ensuring that your mail arrives at its intended destination swiftly. Spokane Zip Code Map The Role of ZIP+4 in Automated Systems In an era where automation is key, the ZIP+4 code integrates seamlessly with automated sorting machines. These machines read the extended code and sort the mail accordingly, without the need for human intervention. This not only accelerates the sorting process but also reduces the margin of error to near zero. Conclusion The ZIP+4 system is an unsung hero in the realm of postal services. It enhances delivery accuracy, expedites the sorting process, and ensures that the mail reaches its destination promptly. It is a testament to the commitment of postal services to employ advanced methods for the benefit of all. Take advantage of these online tools to save time and find information quickly. ZIP+4 Codes are an extension of the traditional 5-digit ZIP code, providing a more precise way to identify specific groups of delivery points within a given ZIP code. Each ZIP+4 code can represent a range of delivery points, such as a block of apartments or a group of businesses, as well as individual points. Looking up ZIP+4 codes can be easy with the right tools. The USPS provides a free ZIP Code lookup service on their website that allows users to find ZIP+4 codes for specific addresses or ranges of addresses. If you find the USPS ZIP Code lookup service doesn't meet your needs, Firstlogic offers an easy-to-use lookup tool below that provides accurate and up-to-date information. With the Firstlogic tool, you can quickly search for ZIP+4 codes by entering an address or partial address. Lookup the full ZIP+4 code for an address using our free tool If using the USPS tool is more your speed, read on for a step-by-step guide. Looking up a ZIP+4 with the USPS ZIP Code™ Lookup Tool The USPS ZIP Code™ Lookup Tool is a free web-based tool that allows users to find ZIP+4 codes for specific addresses or ranges of addresses. Here's how to use the tool: Go to the USPS website and navigate to the ZIP Code™ Lookup Tool page: Enter the address you want to look up in the "Street Address" field. You can also enter a city and state or a ZIP code to narrow down your search. Click the "Find" button to search for the ZIP+4 code associated with the address. The tool will display the ZIP+4 code associated with the address, as well as additional information such as the 5-digit ZIP code, the delivery point code, and the carrier route code. If you need to look up multiple addresses or perform batch processing, you can download the USPS ZIP+4 Code file, which contains the full list of ZIP+4 codes for all valid delivery addresses in the United States. By using the USPS ZIP Code™ Lookup Tool, you can easily and quickly find accurate and up-to-date ZIP+4 codes for your mailing needs. However, it's important to note that the usage of this tool is subject to terms of service and usage limits that may not be sufficient for all needs. In such cases, third-party providers like Firstlogic may provide a more robust and customizable solution for ZIP+4 code lookup needs. What are ZIP+4 Codes? An example of the data represented by each digit of a ZIP+4 code. ZIP+4 codes, also known as Plus-Four codes, 9 digit ZIP codes, extended ZIP codes, or full ZIP codes, are four-digit codes that are appended to the traditional five-digit USPS ZIP code. When used in conjunction with the full ZIP code, the additional four digits allow for more accurate and efficient mail delivery. Each ZIP+4 code represents a specific delivery route, which typically includes 10 to 20 homes or locations. These routes are not permanent and can change regularly, making the last four digits of ZIP codes more volatile than the first five digits. Factors such as the quantity of postal employees, new construction, and remapping of delivery areas can all contribute to changes in ZIP+4 codes. Due to the dynamic nature of ZIP+4 codes, it's important to keep address lists and mailing labels up to date with the most current ZIP+4 codes available. Using an accurate and up-to-date ZIP+4 code lookup tool, such as the ones mentioned earlier in this article, can help ensure that your mail is delivered to the correct location in a timely and efficient manner. What Is My ZIP Code with the Extra Four Digits? If you need the answer to: "What is my ZIP code with the extra 4 digits?", we suggest you find the "Use Now" button at the top of the page, enter your address, and get your ZIP+4 code instantly. Remember, your ZIP code "with the extra 4 digits" is also better known as a ZIP+4 code. Conclusion The USPS provides a free ZIP+4 code lookup tool on their website that can be used to find accurate and up-to-date ZIP+4 codes for specific addresses. By using this tool, individuals and businesses can ensure that their mail is delivered to the correct location in a timely and efficient manner. Using a reliable and accurate ZIP+4 code lookup tool, whether from the USPS or a third-party provider like Firstlogic, can help ensure that your mail is delivered accurately and on time. By reducing the chances of misdeliveries or returned mail, businesses can improve customer satisfaction and reduce costs associated with undeliverable mail. Want to give your visual experts and special guests for an info-packed hour of insights to elevate your next video project. Tune in on June 24 at 11am ET.Register NowHow can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explain how.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today's most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionWant to give your brand videos a cinematic edge? Join our visual experts and special guests for an info-packed hour of insights to elevate your next video project. Tune in on June 24 at 11am ET.Register NowHow can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explain how.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today's most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionWant to give your brand videos a cinematic edge? Join our visual experts and special guests for an info-packed hour of insights to elevate your next video project. Tune in on June 24 at 11am ET.Register NowHow can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explain how.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today's most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionWant to give your brand videos a cinematic edge? Join our visual experts and special guests for an info-packed hour of insights to elevate your next video project. Tune in on June 24 at 11am ET.Register NowHow can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explain how.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today's most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionWhat is a ZIP+4 Code? The USPS refers to these numbers as the "ZIP +4 Code", the "Last 4 Digits" of their ZIP Code, the "4 digit extension" and so on. Even though they all mean the same thing, The U.S. Postal Service refers to these numbers as the "ZIP +4 Code". To determine a ZIP +4 Code you will need to know an address. The last four digits are not specific to a city but to a street address or Post Office Box. This is what an address looks like with the ZIP +4 Code: The first five digits identify the area of the country and the delivery office to which the mail is directed. ZIP Codes start with a zero (0) in the northeast and gradually get higher as you move west. ZIP Codes in the far west start with a nine (9). The sixth and seventh digits point to a delivery sector, which may be several blocks, a group of streets, a group of Post Office boxes, several office buildings, a single high-rise office building, a large apartment building or a small geographic area. The last two digits represent a delivery segment, which might be one floor of an office building, a side of a street, specific departments in an office, or specific Post Office boxes. It's good to know your ZIP +4 Code. More and more companies are requiring it on paperwork and forms. The U.S.P.S. does not mandate that packages or letters need the +4 code. However, using the correct ZIP+4 reduces the number of times your mail is handled and can decrease the chance of a misdelivery or error. Click here to find your ZIP +4 Code! We are a licensed distributor of USPS ZIP Code Data. If you are in need of a ZIP +4 Database, check out our U.S. ZIP+4 page. Our databases contain every street and address range in the U.S., along with the corresponding ZIP +4 Code. Smarty is simply the best solution for USPS and International Address Validation. From our APIs, to our list-processing tools, we have an address validation solution for you. The ZIP+4 code system, also known as the "plus-four code," extended or full zip code, adds four additional digits to the standard ZIP code. The purpose is to narrow down a location within a delivery zip code area, possibly to a specific building, floor, or apartment suite.This article explores ZIP+4 codes in the USA and similar "micro-postcodes" worldwide, including Ireland, the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, and Brazil. We will also explain when these micro-postcodes are necessary, when standard postal codes are enough, and how to find a full zip code.Other nations have micro-postcodes systems, like full zip codes, in addition to the ones mentioned. For example, Singapore, Israel, Malta, Cape Verde in Africa, and Argentina use these codes, too. Check out the chart for more countries that use micro-postcode systems.Enter any ZIP code in USA.Get access to location data from 247 countries.For locations with multiple delivery points within a single ZIP code, such as large office buildings, universities, or apartment complexes, ZIP+4 codes help ensure mail reaches the correct recipient.This level of detail is essential in environments where multiple individuals or departments share the same basic address, as it significantly reduces the chances of mail being misdelivered. For instance, a university might use a full zip code to ensure that addresses and documents reach the correct recipient immediately.In business operations, standard ZIP codes are generally sufficient for validating addresses, market analysis, logistics optimization, and enhancing user experiences.Many businesses find that standard ZIP codes meet their needs because they provide the necessary geographic information without the added complexity of ZIP+4 codes. The additional detail offered by ZIP+4 or a full ZIP code is often unnecessary for routine mailing tasks, making standard ZIP codes more convenient and easier for everyday business operations. For over 15 years, we have created the most comprehensive worldwide zip code database. Our location data is updated weekly, relying on more than 1,500 sources. Browse GeoPostcodes datasets and download a free sample here.To understand the structure of a ZIP+4 code, let's break down the full ZIP Code of the White House, 20500-0004:The first five digits indicate the region, Sectional Center Facility (S.C.F.), and post office or delivery area (e.g., 20500).The sixth and seventh digits specify a smaller area, like a city block or large building.The eighth and ninth digits identify an exact location, like one side of a street, a specific floor, or an apartment.So, the full ZIP Code (ZIP+4 code) of the White House, 20500-0004, specifically designates region 2 (Washington, D.C. area), the S.C.F. 05 (Washington, D.C. central area), the post office or delivery area 00, the delivery segment 04.The USPS ZIP Code™ Lookup Tool is a free web-based tool for finding a full ZIP code for a specific address or address range.Eircode, introduced in 2015, is Ireland's national micro-postcode system. Each Eircode is a unique 7-character code, including letters and numbers. For example, the Eircode for the Irish Parliament is D02 XR20.An Eircode has two parts:3-character routing key that identifies the area.4-character unique identifier for each address.Every residential and commercial address in Ireland has an Eircode, including houses, flats, duplex units, and rural townland properties. For example, consider two houses on the same street; each house has a distinct Eircode despite their proximity. Similarly, if houses have the same number on different streets in the same town, each house will have a different Eircode. This level of specificity ensures that mail is delivered to the correct address without confusion.Eircodes help correct address mistakes by providing a unique code for every address in Ireland, ensuring accurate mail delivery even if the address is partially incorrect.To find or verify an Eircode, use the Eircode Finder.The United Kingdom has approximately 1.7 million postcodes. This large number is due to micro-post codes, which allow for very granular geographical precision. These micro-post codes provide detailed location information, often specifying particular segments of streets.A case in point is Buckingham Palace's postcode: SW1A 1AA.It uses two components to guide the mail: an outward code indicating the postal area or town and an inward code specifying the exact street or delivery point.Each postcode usually covers about 15 properties but can include up to 100. Royal Mail's postcode system, introduced in 1016 GV.The digits represent a specific area or neighborhood, while the letters further narrow down the location, often to a specific street or part of a street. This system ensures that each postcode and house number uniquely identify an address. You can browse Netherlands micro-postcodes on the official Post NL website.Canada's postal code system, introduced in 1971, uses a mix of letters and numbers. Each postal code is composed of six characters. An example is the postal code for Parliament Hill: K1A 0A9.The first segment of the Forward Sortation Area (F.S.A.) shows a geographic region or community. The second segment, the Local Delivery Unit (L.D.U.), narrows down the delivery location to a particular address, street, or building. To find a micro-postcode for Canada, you can use the official Canada Post website.Brazil's postal code system, C.E.P. (Código de Endereçamento Postal), was introduced in 1971. Each C.E.P. is eight digits long and typically formatted as 12345-678. For example, the postal code for the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue is 22241-125.The first five digits represent a specific region, city, or neighborhood, while the other standardsAssess your aggregated data qualityTo learn more about this process, check out our article on The 7 Challenges of Building a Standardized Zip Code Database.If you need the data for one country, it might still be manageable with spreadsheets.However, the process is hard enough for a couple of countries. If you need quality data for several countries, outsourcing those efforts to a trustworthy data provider will save you time and money.All the data is cleaned, normalized, and pushed to a unified data model. We track postal and administrative changes, link to several external sources (e.g., geocodes, UNLOCODES, time zones), and publish weekly updates.We will also answer your questions about national administrative and postal structures as we aggregate different data sources.In conclusion, micro-postcodes like ZIP+4 codes in the U.S. offer exact address identification, breaking down regions into specific segments such as buildings or apartments.Other countries have similar systems: Ireland's Eircode, the U.K.'s detailed postcodes, the Netherlands' numeric and alphabetic postcodes, Canada's alphanumeric postal codes, and Brazil's eight-digit C.E.P.In scenarios like university campuses with multiple departments or offices sharing the same address, micro-postcodes such as ZIP+4 are important. These codes provide detailed location information, ensuring that mail is delivered accurately to specific floors or departments within the campus.This precision reduces the risk of delays in critical communications, such as admissions documents reaching the correct office.In contrast, standard five-digit zip codes are sufficient for business use cases. These codes provide adequate geographic information for address validation, market analysis, and logistics.They balance accuracy and simplicity, making them suitable for routine business operations where the additional granularity of ZIP+4 or similar systems is unnecessary.With more than 15 years of experience, we offer the most comprehensive, accurate, and up-to-date geocoded zip code data. Browse GeoPostcodes datasets and download a free sample here.Does the USPS require ZIP+4?No, the USPS does not require ZIP+4 codes. While the United States Postal System (USPS) does not enforce the mandatory use of ZIP+4, incorporating this 4-digit extension into the traditional 5-digit ZIP code serves to define a more specific delivery trajectory within a carrier route.This enhancement significantly boosts the efficiency and accuracy of mail delivery.The integration of ZIP+4 results in expedited delivery speed and elevates the level of precision, ultimately ensuring a more seamless and reliable postal experience for both senders and recipients. How to Find the extra 4 digits of a ZIP code?Accessing the full 9-digit ZIP code?Accessing the full 9-digit ZIP code tapestry through the U.S. Postal Service's free ZIP+4 code lookup tool involves a single and user-friendly process.Users can input detailed address information into the online tool, and it will provide the most precise and up-to-date ZIP+4 code for any specific location.This tool is an essential resource for optimizing the postal delivery process, allowing users to incorporate the accurate 4-digit code for increased delivery efficiency and reliability. Yes, ZIP+4 codes are important because they help the USPS sort and deliver mail more efficiently, ensuring quicker and more accurate delivery. What are the NYC ZIP codes?These New York City has numerous ZIP codes, with ranges such as 10001-10292 in Manhattan, 10451-10475 in the Bronx, 11201-11256 in Brooklyn, 11101-11109 in Queens, and 10301-10314 in Staten Island.Use the USPS ZIP Code Lookup for specific addresses. How does the ZIP+4 code system enhance mail delivery efficiency?The ZIP+4 code system enhances mail delivery efficiency by adding four digits to a standard street address, refining the sorting and delivery process.These additional numbers narrow down the given zip code to a specific delivery route, such as a particular building or apartment within the area covered by the full zip code. What benefits do the additional numbers in a ZIP+4 code provide?This precision allows the local post office to manage mail more effectively, ensuring accurate and timely delivery. They play a crucial role in directing mail to specific locations, handled by the particular post office in charge of that region. How does the ZIP+4 system support efficient mail sorting?This system not only aids the local post office but also supports the efficient mail sorting and delivery process, enhancing overall mail system performance. Why are zip codes important in the mail system?The inclusion of zip code numbers and full zip codes ensures that every mail piece is correctly processed and delivered, highlighting the importance of precise addressing in the mail system. How Can I Perform a Full ZIP Code Lookup?A full ZIP Code lookup helps find the ZIP+4 code, which provides more precise location details. The ZIP+4 system includes:5-digit ZIP Code4-digit extension for specific addresses or mail routesYou can use USPS tools or online databases to find the full ZIP Code by entering an address. This improves address accuracy, speeds up mail delivery, and ensures proper address data management. What Are ZIP Code Boundaries and the Expanded ZIP Code System?ZIP code boundaries define geographic areas assigned to ZIP codes, but they don't always align with city or county borders. The expanded ZIP Code system (ZIP+4) helps pinpoint specific locations within these boundaries.The ZIP+4 code enhances address data management by reducing delivery errors and improving efficiency. Businesses use ZIP+4 for geolocation, service coverage, and routing accuracy. Checking ZIP code boundaries ensures correct addressing and delivery. ZIP codes, the postal code system used by the US Postal Service (USPS), were introduced in 1963. Their basic, and most familiar, form consists of five digits that indicate a specific delivery area. In 1983, the USPS introduced the extended ZIP+4 code. Also called "plus-four codes," "add-on codes," or "add-ons", the ZIP+4 code starts with the standard five-digit ZIP Code. The four extra numbers are added after a hyphen to complete the ZIP+4. So what do the extra numbers mean? These last 4 digits represent specific delivery routes within delivery areas. This extra detail means an even more precise matching to a more granular level. It could represent a handful of houses on one side of a street, or even a single building that receives a high volume of mail. So ZIP+4 Codes help you more effectively sort and distribute mail. How does this affect you? As we already discussed, using the ZIP+4 code narrows down your delivery address to a handful of addresses. There are plenty of resources that suggest ZIP+4 accelerates the overall delivery process by one or even two days since it reduces the processing time needed at a mail centre. Delivery addresses do not require ZIP+4 codes. However, ZIP+4 codes require an address to be first standardized and verified to exist. This means that an address with a ZIP+4 code is more accurate. Delivery addresses do not require ZIP+4 codes. However, ZIP+4 codes require an address to be first standardized and verified to exist. This means that an address with a ZIP+4 code is fairly regularly. Some resources state that the USPS can update a ZIP+4 code as frequently as once in two months. However frequently or infrequently the case may be, it's important to note that they can change. Sounds like you want some *cough* automated software to find that for you... The USPS discounts on bulk mailings if you do tasks that the USPS would normally do, like bundling mail, adding barcodes and, most relevant here, if you add the ZIP+4 Code extension. If you frequently work with PO boxes, ZIP+4 codes are incredibly useful. The USPS usually assigns each PO Box its own +4 Code, which matches the box number. In other words, the ZIP+4 Code will likely include the actual PO Box number in the +4 part of the ZIP code. Now you know why you should care about ZIP+4 codes. The next step is how to start using them. If you use Salesforce then there's some good news for you. Easily retrieve the ZIP+4 for your addresses in Salesforce with AddressTools. Our solution includes US-specific interactive functionality to help you easily look up and verify full ZIP codes. What are ZIP Codes in your CRM can give you the competitive advantage, not to mention many integrations enable them! Want to learn more about why ZIP+4 Codes are useful in your CRM? We've written a part two to this blogpost here! We love talking about all things related! See AddressTools. You can perform a zip code address validation that can retrieve ZIP+4 codes to assign them. A zip code address solution that can retrieve ZIP+4 codes to assign them ZIP+4 codes to assign the zip+4 codes to assign. The United States Postal Service (USPS) uses ZIP+4 codes to assign the zip+4 codes. Each ZIP+4 code comprises a 9-digit code; the first 5 digits represent the standard ZIP code, and the last 4 digits identify a specific geographic location or group of addresses. (image source: extendoffice) ZIP+4 codes are necessary for postal services to more efficiently sort and deliver mail and packages to specific locations nationwide. They divide a delivery area into geographic segments, such as a street, city, apartment, complex, or more. These codes are useful to speed up the delivery process, reduce errors, and help mailers become eligible for bulk mailing discounts. ZIP+4 codes were introduced in 1983 to add more precision to the standard five-digit ZIP code system. Both the sender and the receiver need to know the ZIP+4 code to deliver mail or packages to their destination easily. However, ZIP+4 codes are only available for addresses that are standardized and validated to be deliverable. ZIP+4 codes are necessary to improve the delivery speed, and sorting process, and reduce errors in the mailing process. ZIP+4 codes were introduced by USPS to add more precision to the standard 4-digit ZIP codes. An individual can send a post without the ZIP+4 code, but it would move slowly through the postal system. Using ZIP+4 codes provides better delivery routes, in-depth street address verification, higher security, and more comprehensive insights. Using the ZIP+4 code allows USPS to assign the right person for the delivery based on their route. A ZIP code's last 4 digits consider the truck's actual path for travel in a single drop-off. A ZIP+4 code is a four-digit postal code used by the United States Postal Service (USPS) that is appended to a five-digit ZIP code. ZIP+4 codes are made up of a 9-digit code, with the first 5 digits representing the standard ZIP code and the last 4 digits identifying a specific group of addresses or a geographic location. The first 5 digits of a 9-digit ZIP+4 code refer to a specific delivery area, and the additional four digits identify a smaller area within that delivery area. The use of ZIP+4 codes helps the USPS to more efficiently sort and deliver mail to specific locations. Usually, the five-digit delivery area is divided into geographic segments, such as a city, street, apartment, or complex, or more. Additionally, Zip+4 codes assist in sorting and delivering mail, speeding up delivery time, decreasing delivery errors, and allowing mailers to qualify for bulk mailing discounts. We know that you are curious to learn all about Zip+4 codes: Join us as we explore them. But, before you jump in with us to know the details, let us look a little back in time..... Let's start with a journey to the past. SIGN UP FOR POSTGRID If you have ever tried sending direct mail to someone, you have likely came to know that it was introduced as a solution to make mail travel faster. During its inception, the ZIP codes only consisted of 5 digits but, as the mail system grew bigger and more complex along with the growing population in the US, the 5-digit ZIP codes were no longer doing the job well enough. Hence in 1983, the USPS introduced the ZIP+4 codes, which are also known today as "+4 codes," and the purpose of this ZIP+4 code is simply to add more precision to the standard five-digit ZIP codes. In a nine-digit full ZIP code, the first five digits represent the specific delivery area or post office of an address, whereas the last four digits of the ZIP code indicate the delivery area down to a few blocks radius or a specific delivery area. The entire nine-digit ZIP code, in effect, streamlines the delivery process for the USPS and ensures that your direct mail is sent or received with minimal delay. So it doesn't matter whether you are sending mail or receiving one. It is important to know your ZIP+4 code, as it would be considered slow to move along and can take a while for it to reach the recipient. The ZIP code or Zone Improvement Plan was something the USPS came up with to make the postal service easy and quick across the country. The ZIP codes divide the country into different zones, enabling the USPS to accelerate its postal sorting and delivery process effectively. Therefore, it is always best to provide the full 9-digit ZIP code if you want the letter or package delivered sooner rather than later. The question now becomes, how do I find the full ZIP code to the address I want to send direct mail to? When it comes to businesses that send out regular direct mail to their customers, this question is even more crucial because they often work on deadlines. When working on a deadline, speed is vital, and the post reaches the customers even more urgently. Hence, businesses must turn to advanced address verification tools like PostGrid that can provide a complete address, including the full 9-digit ZIP code for your address database. What makes it even better is that you can do this in a matter of seconds, and it only takes you a few clicks. There is no need for carrying out a ZIP+4 lookup for every address; all you need is a CSV file, and whoosh.....you can easily get the data you need with a few clicks. Ah, innovation & technology. Gone are the days when businesses had to keep countless checks bound somewhere in the bulk paper checkbooks.SIGN UP ZIP+4 codes offer many advantages apart from accuracy and fast delivery, including Better Delivery Routes USPS always collects resources to create better and faster routes. ZIP+4 codes aid them in this process, ensuring you get your mailers to the best route possible. It lets carriers sort the items faster and get them to their destinations within the estimated arrival times. In-Depth Address Verification ZIP+4 codes enable address validation vendors to fetch better results. It lets you cross-reference your database with others, like a GIS (Geographic Information System). Higher Security Adding ZIP+4 codes to your delivery addresses reduces the risk of identity theft and other fraud. You can provide detailed information about where your customers love to prevent mailers from falling into the wrong hands. More Comprehensive Insights Organizations can get more accurate address data analytics using ZIP+4 codes to improve their marketing efforts and expand their customer base. They can use their audience's accurate locations to identify geographical patterns. Thus, they can channel their initiatives in the most profitable direction. For example, they can open a franchise where most of their buyers live, to attract more sales. When it was first launched, the five-digit ZIP code was a revolutionary step for the US Postal Service. It significantly simplified the way the USPS functioned and streamlined its operations. The ZIP 4 code was brought in later to accommodate the growing population. However, that's not all the ZIP 4 code does. According to a recent study by the USPS, about 40 million addresses change every year and potentially 40 million letters/packages every year. Although 40 million may not be the real number of undelivered mailings, it is safe to say that a large number of mailings may not be delivered or shipped to the wrong address if it weren't for the ZIP 4 code. As per the data from USPS, out of a whopping 158 billion mailed items in 2013, only a mere 4.3% of them were marked "Undeliverable as Addressed (UAA)." Had it not been for the ZIP 4 code, this number could have been a lot worse. The role of the ZIP 4 code doesn't end there either. It further goes on to boost the delivery speed and accuracy of the USPS mailing significantly. This is evident from the one or two-day deliveries made by the USPS. But perhaps what can be considered the most significant benefit of the ZIP+4 code, especially for businesses, all you need is a free ZIP program for making a code, you need to standardize and validate the code before it is valid for an address. In Layman's terms, an address has to be sure to exist and also be deliverable. And the cherry on top for the businesses would be to first verify that they can help with getting your business bulk mailing discounts. Somehow, for tools like PostGrid- Well, they have a lot to offer in terms of ZIP 4 codes, such aspects are. You can easily track all Mail Outs & Deliveries Maintain data quality control with a 99.9% address-related error-free rate. Launch triggered mail campaigns. And.....more Be a master of your database and launch triggered direct mail campaigns with our address verification API.TRY POSTGRID The 9-digit full ZIP code works in parts. For example, consider a direct mail is sent to New York City from Dallas, the carrier that first receives your mail from Dallas need not know the exact delivery address of the recipient. The mail first needs to be forwarded to the appropriate mail center, which in this case is the state of New York. So here is where the ZIP code comes into the picture for the first time during the travel of your direct mail. As mentioned before, the ZIP codes are assigned to post offices all around the country by USPS, and each post office has at least one ZIP code assigned to it. The first five digits used in this stage to ensure that the direct mail is sent to the correct post office. At this stage, there is no point bothering with the ZIP 4 code at this point. Once the direct mail reaches the destined post office, the first 5-digit of the ZIP code becomes practically irrelevant other than cross-checking the address. Once the direct mail is received at the relevant post office, the ZIP 4 codes can then be used to figure out where the mail is delivered. The ZIP 4 code allows sending it to the right person for the delivery based on their delivery route, thereby streamlining the entire delivery process. Now that we have an overview of the two parts of the 9-digit ZIP, we can now discuss how exactly the ZIP code helps identify your most accurate location. The best place to start this is the USPS five-digit ZIP code that we are all familiar with. Like we discussed before, they are most commonly used to indicate the post office that will take it to its final destination. However, most of us don't know that each number in the five-digit ZIP code is significant to its destination. The first digit of your five-digit ZIP code signifies the national area, while the next two digits signify the sectional center or city post office. The last two digits of the five-digit ZIP code signify the associated post office or delivery area, thereby giving the people at USPS a comprehensive idea of the postage destination. Furthermore, the ZIP codes don't just act as boundaries as high as the ZIP codes which starts with one and goes as low as the ZIP codes which start with nine. What precisely do these codes mean? Well, the first digit of a ZIP code signifies a national area. In a way, you may even say that they are governed by where the delivery truck goes. It should come as no surprise to you that there are certain special ones even among ZIP codes. "Military" ZIP codes are one of them, and they can be used for everything from military bases, domestic or otherwise, to battleships. These are unique codes and serve a specific purpose of being individualistic from the standard ones to avoid any form of confusion. It is also possible for businesses and government agencies to get their own ZIP code due to the high volume of mail they receive and send. The primary purpose behind their ZIP codes is the same as that of the military ZIP codes- to keep them separate and constrained by any geographic or administrative boundaries. They may cross city, state, or even country lines. In a way, you may even say that they are governed by where the delivery truck goes. It should come as no surprise to you that there are certain special ones even among ZIP codes. "Military" ZIP codes are one of them, and they can be used for everything from military bases, domestic or otherwise, to battleships. These are unique codes and serve a specific purpose of being individualistic from the standard ones to avoid any form of confusion. It is also possible for businesses and government agencies to get their own ZIP code due to the high volume of mail they receive and send. This is very practical for both the business and USPS. The business usually has an internal mail department that can presort mail before distributing it inside the company. Similarly, the direct mail sent out from the company are also presorted. Furthermore, these firms also enjoy the benefit of bulk mailing discounts thanks to their internal mail department. The last four digits of ZIP codes indicate a very specific delivery route that includes the truck's actual path taken for travel in a single drop-off. Typically, this route consists of ten to twenty homes/locations. Sometimes the ZIP 4 codes are given to P.O. boxes. They usually get their own ZIP+4 code that more often than not matches the box number. Since the ZIP+4 code digits are based on delivery routes rather than demarcated boundaries, the last 4 digits of ZIP codes can often be subject to change. Although the five-digit ZIP code also changes from time to time, that changes are far less frequent as compared to the ZIP+4 codes. It is unlikely that the five-digit ZIP code of a place will change while you are still living there, as they remain the same for most of the time. On the other hand, the ZIP 4 code can change much more frequently and may sometimes change once a month based on numerous change once a month based on numerous. These factors include the number of postal employees working, the route taken by the delivery worker, which route is delivered to the correct address. These facts are based on delivery routes rather than demarcated boundaries, which is why they remain volatile and change quite often. Once the five-digit ZIP codes are standardized and validated to be real. Therefore, the more accurate and efficient your address verification system, the better your direct mailing services will be for your business. The best way for you to carry out a full zip code lookup for business purposes would be to use standardized address verification tools such as PostGrid. With an API, like PostGrid, you can easily upload your address database, small or big, as a CSV file, and you can easily get the verified version of your address database. Not only does PostGrid verify the address for you against the official postal address database of USPS, but also it fills in missing data, including the full 9-digit zip code for every address. PostGrid can even use PostGrid's Address lookup API to implement an autocomplete feature on your website that would let you type in their address and generate their full address, including the full 9-digit zip code for every address. You can even use PostGrid's Address lookup API to implement their details and, in effect, encourage conversions as they make the desired action (Filling the form in this case). You can take it a step further by fully automating your business's direct mail management process by using PostGrid's fully-documented REST API to send out personalized letters, checks, or postcards to your target audience. You can either send the direct mails on-demand or at scale, depending on your requirements. With a deliverability rate of 99.99%, PostGrid print and mail API automates and optimizes the entire process involved in direct mailing, saving you valuable time and effort, which can now be utilized for the more important aspects of your business. Get an extended ZIP code lookup for your business and automate your offline marketing efforts to send out direct mails to your customers.SIGN UP You can access the ZIP+4 code data on the USPS website. Also, you may leverage the postal service's address validation API. The Post Office lists a comprehensive list of advantages and restrictions of using these tools You can read these to understand how to use the APIs better. However, the most reliable way to access the USPS ZIP+4 code data is to associate with a licensed or CASS-certified address verification service, like PostGrid. This data keeps changing almost monthly. Hence, you need a solid partner that helps you update your mailing addresses frequently. It ensures you don't write inaccurate or obsolete ZIP codes. Individuals can enjoy multiple benefits with their address data management and shipping process using ZIP+4 codes. The following are some notable benefits: Faster Deliveries Professionals can use ZIP+4 codes to represent different segments of these codes within a single block. A simple 9-digit makes it more efficient for the delivery workers to understand the way. USPS also prefers this format to learn where exactly to deliver the mail. Businesses can use ZIP+4 codes to increase the pace of their deliveries and decrease delivery times. E-commerce companies can massively benefit from the use of these codes. Reduction in Failed Deliveries & Lost Mail An efficient delivery route also eliminates the possibility of failures. Businesses can reduce the chances of lost mail by following the ZIP+4 format in their shipments. It will also help them understand if the failure is because the mail is delivered to the wrong destination. Reduce Your Returned Mail An individual must enter a valid address to obtain a ZIP+4 code. They can standardize their addresses according to the USPS guidelines and format to ensure smoother deliveries. Standardized addresses always help USPS in reducing returned mail. Huge Savings on Bulk Mailings USPS provides commercial mailing discounts to people sending at least 50 packages of at least 200 pieces of mail. Yet, if they use ZIP+4 codes and Delivery Point Barcodes, USPS can provide additional discounts of up to 5 to 60% on the usual post office prices. It could be a significant savings for businesses sending bulk mail regularly. Clean Address Data A smooth mail or package delivery requires validated, standardized, and corrected addresses. Professionals must ensure the above to obtain a valid ZIP+4 code for their shipment. They can clean their address data by gathering ZIP+4 codes for them. Verified addresses are always helpful in removing duplicates and redundancies and merging records. Companies can get rid of every poor data from their database. Enhancement in Address Data Sometimes, address data could be vague or incomplete. It can reduce the chances of successful deliveries and lead to return mail. PostGrid can help businesses to obtain ZIP+4 codes with additional data points about an address. This data can be beneficial in your business intelligence to understand the recipients better. Your mail and packages can show up faster with a ZIP+4 code. Hence, you need a free five-digit code only. Visit the official USPS website and use the ZIP Code lookup Tool Page. Write an address. Here's how you can use the tool: Visit the official USPS website and navigate to the ZIP Code lookup Tool Page. Write an address. The tool will provide you with a ZIP+4 code. You will also get additional information, such as the carrier route code, the 5-digit ZIP code, and the delivery point code. You can download the USPS ZIP+4 Code file to run a batch-processing task. This file contains the entire list of ZIP+4 codes present in America. H. Bentley Hahn first proposed the idea of a five-digit code in the 1940s to locate different areas in the country. Germany was also using a similar system during the 40s. Hahn realized the existing US postal system needed to be faster and more efficient as a postal inspector. Manual sorting was making the entire infrastructure sluggish and rigid. A new approach was necessary to streamline the sorting and delivery process in the country. The ZIP code system was first introduced in 1963 with five-digit codes to locate specific areas. Its first three digits represented a regional sorting area. At the same time, the last two digits represented a particular post office. The introduction of the ZIP code system was a revolutionary step in changing the mailing system of the United States. Processes were much faster, more accurate, and more efficient with this new format. Many individuals often have misconceptions about the two. They even use the two terms interchangeably. Yet, they must learn about the subtle differences in superior data management. This chart will help in understanding these differences. Postal Code ZIP Code Country Rest of the world United States of America Length 3 to 10 characters 5 to 10 characters Numbers The codes have different lengths depending on the country. It always has five digits. Format They can be alphanumeric across the world. There are only numeric values in the format. ZIP codes are used specific to the United States, while postal codes are standard in the rest of the world. Business owners should always appreciate the power of ZIP codes. These codes could be beneficial for: Targeted Marketing with Geo-Location Many firms are using ZIP codes to run targeted marketing campaigns. It helps them to make their advertising efforts relevant to specific geographic demographics, customer behaviors, and local events. Preventing Frauds Many finance companies prefer using ZIP codes as an additional security measure to eliminate fraudulent transactions.

They often use ZIP code verification during credit card transactions to verify the identity of the person making the person.   Segmenting Customers ZIP codes are also helping marketing professionals to segment their customers. They can learn the distribution of customers across different zones with ZIP codes. It helps them explore various patterns and trends to customize their marketing efforts further. They can launch different offers for each customer segment. Regulatory Compliance Many industries need the use of ZIP codes for regulatory compliance. For example, financial businesses must use ZIP codes to determine premiums and coverage policies. The latest ZIP codes are handy to ensure their data is latest and accurate. They can remain completely compliant with the regulatory guidelines. Data Quality Management Many companies need help with maintaining their address data. ZIP codes could be helpful in data cleansing to ensure the database is clean and accurate. They can compare their data to a trustworthy database (USPS) to find any errors or inconsistencies. Once you have a full 9-digit ZIP code added to your database's addresses, you can significantly improve your offline communication capabilities. You can further use this data for your cross-channel marketing campaigns. The full zip code lookup can greatly help businesses and marketing domains in many ways. They also come with certain limitations. Before you can employ advanced automation tools for your business's offline communication and cross-channel campaigns, you should consider its advantages and disadvantages. The shipping quality of the offline communication methods is greatly improved when you carry out a full ZIP code lookup and use the ZIP+4 code, and it ensures the offline communications are delivered in a single drop-off. Another advantage of a Zip+4 code™ lookup is that the addresses are subjected to a standardization process. Then the standardized address is subjected to validation with the official postal address database of USPS. This makes sure the address is deliverable, reduces your return rates, and effectively improves the ROI (Return of investment). The USPS encourages using ZIP+4 codes for bulk mailings by offering discounts because the ZIP+4 codes give USPS valuable information that will help them sort through their mail items more efficiently. As a result, the USPS only has to spend minimal resources to mail pieces to their destination. Offline business communication is thus made not only more time-efficient but also cost-effective. By doing this, companies can optimize their operational expenses and further contribute to a higher ROI. Another aspect of your offline communication affected by the full zip code lookup is the speed. Throughout this article, we have mentioned many times how the full nine-digit ZIP code enhances the speed of operation and speed of delivery of the post. The ZIP+4 code enables the USPS to direct mail much faster, which is ideal for businesses that want to send out important documents such as invoices, bills, or bank statements. The documents reach their destination in the shortest possible time and minimize the risk of late delivery, which effectively improves your customer service quality. Although the full ZIP code lookup tools significantly enrich the customer data and are invaluable in terms of efficiency, there is a risk of it integrating poorly with an automated mail printing and delivery system. Unless the solution of your choice is fully automated, like PostGrid, which allows you to carry out a full ZIP code lookup and have them printed and mailed to the right destinations, you may end up hiring a separate team to handle the offline communications. Such a measure could affect your budget and keep your staff away from doing the more important work than organizing mail fulfillments. Similarly, not having a fully automated system like PostGrid can become a nightmare if the offline mailings are managed poorly by the team that takes care of them. There will always be the scope of human error in your offline communication system. Using an advanced bulk address verification tool like PostGrid for a full ZIP code lookup allows you to get a more comprehensive and data-driven idea about the geographic area your target audience lives in. You can use this to collect additional demographic data about the target audience. Once you get your hands on this type of data, you can then utilize it to learn the average household income, median age, and other such nifty details through governmental bodies' official statistics. This kind of data can be a treasure trove for a capable marketing team. They can use it to come up with personalized advertising for the target audience through numerous marketing channels. The channel used for the purpose could be anything from billboards to regionally-relevant, personalized postcards. Once you can relate a specific customer or even customer group to their daily route, the marketing team can select the ideal product to be advertised based on the new data obtained. In effect, a full ZIP code lookup can lead to enhancing the marketing campaigns and their overall quality despite which marketing channel you decide to use. Furthermore, the accuracy of your cross-channel marketing is greatly improved through a full ZIP code lookup. This can be better utilized by companies or businesses that do not have extensive data on their customers and are constrained by their marketing budget to invest in advanced methods for collecting more data on their leads or customers. As far as cross-channel campaigns are concerned, their effectiveness is to a great extent dependent on automation. The effective implementation of cross-channel is not feasible unless automated to get you the best possible result. The full ZIP code lookup offered by the USPS is not equipped with the advanced capabilities that are needed for the marketing automation of medium to large-size companies. The USPS services offered for a full ZIP code lookup are pretty rudimentary and with limited data enrichment capabilities. For a business, it is highly impractical to use legacy solutions provided by USPS for determining the extended ZIP code of addresses in your database. As a result, your cross-channel marketing campaign may suffer. Therefore, you need two things to get the desired result from your cross-channel marketing efforts: marketing automation software and an advanced tech solution. This is where an advanced, fully automated print and mail solution like PostGrid comes into the picture. As tools like PostGrid are advanced and can be integrated into your website using API, it allows for complete automation of your direct mail campaigns. PostGrid's capability to integrate with your business website along with its superior analytics makes it a one-stop solution for streamlining your cross-channel marketing efforts. As we're near the conclusion of this article, we find ourselves facing the best way to implement an extended ZIP code lookup for businesses. It is evident that, at a time when the competition is harder than ever, businesses need to have an edge through reliable methods like cross-channel marketing and even offline communication through posts. Unlike the use of ZIP+4 codes by individuals or even small-scale businesses, companies with a fairly large address database can not afford to stick with traditional solutions. Traditional solutions like USPS extended ZIP code lookup are not the right match for businesses regardless of size. It is, therefore, necessary for businesses to adopt a more simplified, accurate, and well-organized solution. Even partial automation, including address verification, may not get you the results you hope for. By using advanced tools, like PostGrid, you can streamline the entire process of cross-channel marketing. It can also save you valuable resources, which you can use for the more important goal of growing your business. Lastly, Our award-winning direct mail services provide you with additional capacity if a low deliverability rate is an issue. Our team has designed PostGrid so that anyone can integrate it easily with all their existing data sources like system solutions, CRMs, web- applications, and so on. A ZIP+4 Code is a 4-digit code appended to a standard 5-digit ZIP that helps the USPS sort, route, and deliver mail more efficiently. The last 4 digits of these 9-digit ZIP Codes usually represent 6-20 delivery points on a USPS carrier route. A full zip code lookup can provide you with your 9 digit zip code. Why?ZIP Plus 4 Codes help to prevent misdelivered, lost, delayed, and returned mail. Including those last 4 digits of the ZIP Code can reduce delivery time by as much as 2 days.Stick with us to learn how ZIP plus 4 Codes help to prevent misdelivered, lost, delayed, and returned mail. We'll try to add the sauce to keep the article from being too dry.Bonus: We'll also validate, standardize, and correct your addresses with each ZIP plus 4 Code lookup, too.In this article; we'll cover the following:9-digit full ZIP Code lookupAlso called plus-four codes, 9-digit ZIP Codes, and full ZIP Codes, USPS ZIP+4 Codes can be looked up using various tools, and a full ZIP Code lookup can be the thing that elevates how you do business.Smarty provides some easy-to-use options for single ZIP+4 Code lookups by address, ZIP+4 Codes in bulk (up to millions at a time), and ZIP Code plus 4 lookup via API. Try them out here or read on to learn more about ZIP+4 Codes.Quickly find the last 4 digits of ZIP Code numbers for almost any address in the United States by watching this video.Fully understanding the last four digits of ZIP Codes requires knowing about 5-digit ZIP Codes, too.These are the codes you know. They look like this. These feel familiar and cozy, like regular mashed potatoes.If you need more information on regular ZIP Codes, what they are, and how to use them, you can read the linked article.What are ZIP plus 4 codes?Hooray! You did it. You made it past the plain mashed potatoes and onto the fully loaded and seasoned ones. (We like ours with bacon, cheese, sour cream, chives, olives, and pickles. MMM!) ZIP+4 Codes are a step up in understanding address data.ZIP+4 Codes are 4-digit codes appended to the original 5-digit USPS ZIP Codes. Using the full ZIP Code with the extra 4 digits when mailing via the USPS ensures the fastest, most accurate mailing possible.In case you're wondering, "How can something be more accurate? Isn't information only accurate or inaccurate?" Well, when we refer to ourselves as being the most accurate, we're talking about precision. I could say that I live in the United States of America. That's technically accurate. But, giving you my exact address with it's complete, beautiful ZIP+4 Code will be an even more accurate representation of my location.Our new infographic, "The 411 on ZIP+4," explains tons about ZIP Codes and ZIP+4 Codes. You'll learn how they work, why they're useful, and other interesting facts. Click the image or this link to read it now, since it's the only way to find out how many LEGO Harry Potter Hogwarts Castles you could build if each US address was a LEGO brick.Magical ZIP plus 4 lookup tools don't just do a full ZIP Code lookup. Before you get the +4 Code, your address is taken through the full address standardization and validation process to confirm that the address is available. (How else will you order all those LEGOs?)These codes indicate a specific delivery route, meaning the actual path the mail truck would travel in a single drop-off. Usually, this comprises 5 to 20 homes or locations. The USPS also assigns ZIP+4 Codes to PO Boxes. Typically, each PO Box gets its own +4 Code, which often matches the box number.The extra 4 digits on ZIP Codes identify segments of fluid postal delivery routes. They're not permanent lines, so a 9-digit ZIP Code can change regularly. Five-digit ZIP Codes also change, but they do so infrequently; it's less likely that you will live in a ZIP Code when a 5+4 Code changes. Not so for the last 4 digits of ZIP Code numbers as they can change monthly if necessary.The +4 on a ZIP Code can change as frequently as every 30 days. In fact, 5% of all addresses get their ZIP+4 Code changed each month. Quantity of postal employees, new construction, remapping delivery areas, etc., are just a few things that cause ZIP+4 Code changes.These are the most up-to-date stats for ZIP+4 Codes, 5-digit ZIP Codes, and USPS delivery points as of 2023.44,255,314 - Total USPS ZIP+4 Codes in the US7,282,402 - Total USPS ZIP+4 Codes dedicated to PO Boxes (one ZIP+4 Code per PO Box)36,972,918 - Total USPS ZIP+4 Codes excluding PO Boxes (conventional ZIP+4 Codes)39,969 - Total USPS 5-digit ZIP Codes925 - Average number of USPS ZIP+4 Codes per 5-Digit ZIP Code181,086,464 - Total USPS delivery points in the US4.1 - Average delivery points per ZIP+4 Code (excluding PO Boxes)How 9-digit ZIP Codes (ZIP+4 Codes) were bornGoing back in time to the beginning of ZIP Codes, the Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) was something the USPS came up with to make it easier to ship letters and packages across the country. ZIP helps divide the country into different "zones" according to the distribution of mail, which accelerates sorting and delivery. See our image above for a refresher.These are the codes you know.The Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) was something the USPS came up with to make it easier to ship letters and packages across the country. ZIP helps divide the country into different "zones" according to the distribution of mail, which accelerates sorting and delivery.On July 1, 1963, the Post Office Department launched the Zone Improvement Plan. At the same time, they introduced the world to Mr. ZIP or "Zippy." Zippy is the official ZIP Code mascot pictured on our ZIP Codes 101 page. They also released the ZIP Code jingle:Your browser does not support the audio element.As the US population has increased and scattered since 1963, it's been necessary to expand the system to make room for everybody and their dog. That's where the "plus 4" part comes in.Benefits of full 9-digit ZIP Code lookups (ZIP+4 lookup)Here are a few benefits of looking up ZIP+4 Codes or 9-digit ZIP Codes as part of your address data management or shipping processes.Faster shipping - Each ZIP+4 Code represents segments of delivery routes that are usually within a single block of the desired delivery point. That simple 9-digit number makes routing more efficient since the USPS knows which mail person will put the letter in the mailbox. Completing ZIP+4s on your mail can speed up processing and delivery, sometimes by as many as two days.Reduced lost mail & misdeliveries - More efficient routing also means fewer opportunities for mistakes along the way.Less returned-to-sender" mail - Obtaining ZIP+4 Codes requires validation, which means the address is a valid delivery point and is standardized to the USPS address format. Mail delivery is more reliable with a valid, standardized address with a ZIP4 Code since the address data is clearly understood.More money with bulk mailings - If you send at least 50 packages or more than 200-500 pieces of mail, you may qualify for commercial mailing discounts. By adding ZIP+4 Codes and delivery point barcodes and by sorting/bundling your mail, you can get discounts from 5% to nearly 60% off the prices you'd pay at the post office.Cleaner address data - Addresses must be validated, standardized, and corrected before you get the ZIP+4 Code. So, you get much more than a pretty 9-digit ZIP Code; you get a clean, standard address. Clean, standard addresses are easy to sort and compare. Comparing a table of standardized, verified addresses allows you to easily identify duplicates, delete redundancies, or merge records.Enriched address data - When you give Smarty an address and ask for the ZIP+4 Code, we give you the ZIP+4 Code along with the validated, standardized address. We also provide up to 55 data points about the address, including county information, lat/long coordinates, time zone, whether the address is residential or commercial, and more data that can be used for business intelligence and to better understand your mail recipients.That's right. Your mail can show up faster, cheaper, and more reliably if you label things with a full ZIP+4 Code. Plus, you get less returned mail. Bet you're ready to do your first full ZIP Code lookup now.Those benefits are just the beginning. If you're getting the ZIP+4 Code, you're already validating and standardizing the address, and address validation improves business results across all types of organizations. Read our ebook to learn how:ZIP+4 Code databaseFor many users, the best way to access the USPS ZIP+4 database is through a CASS Certified USPS address validation vendor, like Smarty. Since the last four digits of ZIP Codes update frequently, even month-old data isn't reliable. Checking addresses regularly against the database will ensure your data remains clean.The ZIP+4 Code database can be accessed free directly through the USPS site or the USPS address validation API. In our USPS APIs article, you will find a comprehensive list of uses and limitations of the USPS web-based tool and API. If you need a ZIP+4 Code Database, address validation might scratch your itch better than anything provided by the USPS.What is my ZIP Code with the extra 4 digits?If you need an answer to, "What is my ZIP Code with the extra 4 digits?" Just click one of the buttons at the top of the page, enter your address, and get your +4 Code instantly. Just remember, it's called a ZIP+4 Code, or simply a ZIP+4.Now that you know everything there is to know about ZIP +4 Codes, there will be a pop quiz next week.The quiz will include three things:ZIP+4 Codes indicate delivery routes.Using ZIP+4 Codes gets your mail there faster and more accurately.We at Smarty can get you those codes.If you want to try it on a single address, you can now use our Single Address Verification Tool. Our blindingly fast US Address Verification API provides the appropriate ZIP+4 Code for every address we process.Or you could call us instead if you'd rather talk to an actual person. (We'd offer a fake person, but we don't have one of those on staff.) Either way, we can help you ZIP your address and ZIP it well.