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Steps In Receiving A Replacement Passport

All passports need to be renewed or replaced when they expire or when they get damaged. The expiry date depends on how old you were when you got your last passport. When you got one when you were 15 years or younger, it will expire in five years. Otherwise the document will be effective for 10 years. Replacing a damaged set of documents is like applying for a new one. You will need to be physically present in the acceptance center where you will submit your papers. If you got your last passport more than 15 years ago then it cannot be renewed. You also have to apply for a new one. When your documents have about nine months of validity left, then it is best to have it renewed. Read on to follow the steps in getting a [replacement United States passport](#).

Passport renewal is done by mail. You need an envelope that is the same size or larger than your documents so that they will fit without folding them. First, get a copy of Form DS-82, which can be downloaded, for free from the Internet. You need to put your old passport, some pictures of the required size and other documents into the envelope. Other documents will be required if you got married and you changed your name. In this case, you will be asked to include your marriage certificate, even when applying for a child passport.

The renewal form is freely downloadable on the Internet. The form's name is DS-82 or US Passport Renewal Application for Eligible Individuals. You may opt to get a thicker booklet containing 52 pages if you know that you will be travelling frequently. The thicker booklet is also good if you are travelling to countries that require a blank page for attaching a visa.

A regular application for renewal will take four to six weeks to finish. Since you are already discouraged from travelling when your documents have only nine months of validity left in them, take this chance to have your papers renewed. There are airlines that refuse you to board if you only have six months left of affectivity in your travel papers after your return trip home.

There is choice available for everyone who expedites the processing of your document. It requires that you pay an additional amount. You must clearly mark your envelope with the word "Expedite" if you wish to avail of this option. Your waiting time will be reduced to less than three weeks.

The old passport that you mailed will be returned to you separately. It will be marked cancelled. Although unusable, it is still important because it will prove that you are an American citizen. Keep this document in a safe place.

It is possible to know how far your application is online. This tracking system is very useful for those who need plan, especially if they have upcoming appointments. The system needs your last name, birthday, and the last four characters of your Social Security Number in order to continue.

If you reached the point of renewing your travel documents, you must already know how important it is to keep them valid. The success of your travels depends a lot on how far your papers are from expiring, even when dealing with a [passports for babies](#). When you have only nine months left, consider this as an opportunity to get a replacement U.S. passport.

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