

Published based on [What Happens Should You Need Replacement American Passports](#)

# **What Happens Should You Need Replacement American Passports**

Sometimes things happen that result in your needing a replacement passport. Perhaps yours was eaten by the dog or it was in the bag that was stolen. Perhaps it fell out of your pocket when you were in the helicopter flying over the active volcano. And now you need a replacement.

### When Did You Lose It?

Losing your passport while you are still home is less of a disaster than it might be. But it isn't likely to happen when you have all the time in the world. If it's missing you probably won't notice until your departure date is looming. You will have done most of your shopping for smart-looking, comfortable clothes and sturdy but cute shoes. You will have made reservations and purchased tickets. About the time you actually start packing you will dig out the passports from the place where you kept them since your last trip. It is at this late stage of the to-do list that you realize that one of the passports isn't there. Logically they would all be missing but in one of those last-minute panic situations the scenario would not be logical. So you start ransacking the house as the clock ticks away the minutes until your departure time.

### Fill Out The Proper Forms

The best thing to do is hustle down to the post office or library where the passport agency or acceptance facility is located. It's probably not too far away and it should be easy to find. When you get there you will find forms DS 64 and DS 11 to fill out.

### Other Required Documents

One of these reports the loss of your old one. The other is an application for a new one. You will need to present proof of identification and citizenship and a photograph along with the completed documents.

### Expedited Processing

If time is running out and your departure date is too close for comfort, you can pay an additional fee to have your application process expedited. You will also want to pay for overnight delivery. It's a nuisance and it will cost you some money and maybe some gray hairs but it isn't the end of the world.

### If Out Of The Country

The inconvenience is intensified if you lose your passport while you are traveling. If that happens, scurry to the US embassy or consulate. You will fill out the same forms as you would have back home. The tricky part is if you have also lost your ID and proof of citizenship.

### Other Concerns

If your documents are unavailable, the consular official can verify your identity from your answers to questions. Or they can obtain satisfactory evidence by interviewing your traveling companions. If you have no companions or they are so annoyed with you they refuse to admit they know you, your family or friends back home can identify you long distance.

### Invalidated

It's important to remember that once a passport has been reported lost or stolen, it is invalidated and cannot be used again. If you find your old one after it has been reported, you should send it to the State Department's Lost Or Stolen Passport Section. If you want to keep it for a souvenir, you can ask them to send it back to you after it has been canceled.

A little luck and planning can save you the hassle and expense that result from needing [replacement US passports](#). Keep all identity, citizenship and travel documents together in a locked fireproof container that always stays in one place. Those same documents should be on your person when you are

traveling. Keeping them in a purse or travel bag makes them too easy to steal. The same goes for a [damaged USA Passport](#).

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