

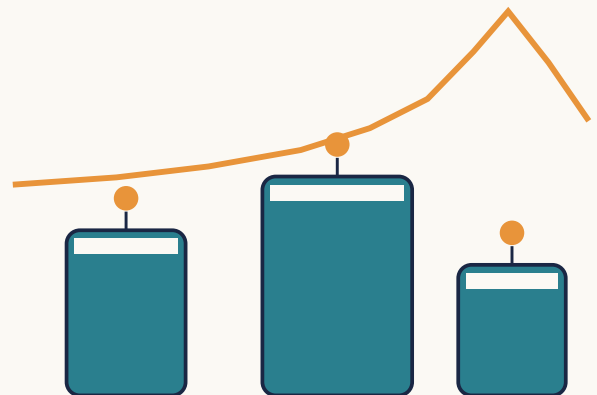


A FREE ARDENT WORKSHOP TOOL

The Day It Has To Be Finished

Every cutoff, counted back to the make-by date.

11 services · cutoff › ship-by › pack-by › make-by · free, no signup



Season 2026, all 11 services

Season 2026 · gifts arrive by Dec 24, 2026 · handling & pack 2 days · cure & finish 28 days (one global figure — the full workbook gives every product its own). The .xlsx recomputes this whole card for any season year.

Service	Published cutoff	Ship-by	Pack-by	Make-by
USPS Ground Advantage	Dec 17, 2026	Dec 17, 2026	Dec 15, 2026	Nov 17, 2026
USPS First-Class Mail	Dec 17, 2026	Dec 17, 2026	Dec 15, 2026	Nov 17, 2026
USPS Priority Mail (plan against this one)	Dec 18, 2026	Dec 18, 2026	Dec 16, 2026	Nov 18, 2026
USPS Priority Mail Express	Dec 20, 2026	Dec 20, 2026	Dec 18, 2026	Nov 20, 2026
USPS Priority Mail International	Dec 9, 2026	Dec 4, 2026	Dec 2, 2026	Nov 4, 2026
UPS Ground	Dec 16, 2026	Dec 16, 2026	Dec 14, 2026	Nov 16, 2026
UPS 3 Day Select	Dec 19, 2026	Dec 19, 2026	Dec 17, 2026	Nov 19, 2026
UPS 2nd Day Air	Dec 22, 2026	Dec 22, 2026	Dec 20, 2026	Nov 22, 2026
FedEx Ground / Home Delivery	Dec 17, 2026	Dec 17, 2026	Dec 15, 2026	Nov 17, 2026
FedEx 2Day	Dec 22, 2026	Dec 22, 2026	Dec 20, 2026	Nov 22, 2026
Local pickup / market handover	Dec 23, 2026	Dec 23, 2026	Dec 21, 2026	Nov 23, 2026

These are the carriers' own **published planning estimates, not guarantees**, dated from their 2025 holiday schedules and projected onto season 2026 — several are not one flat date across the country. Re-check every row against the carrier's own current page each September. Ardent Workshop is not affiliated with USPS, UPS or FedEx.

Read the card right to left, and it is the whole method: SHIP-BY is the earlier of a carrier's published cutoff and the day your own transit time still lands the parcel before your arrive-by date. Take off handling and packing for the PACK-BY. Take off curing and finishing for the MAKE-BY — the day the work itself has to be finished, never a start-by.

PUBLISHED CUTOFF is printed on this card's season year, and carriers publish a fresh schedule every September — re-check each row against the carrier's own current page then. Most rows the published cutoff is the earlier of the two dates; the transit column takes over the moment your own situation is slower than the carrier's assumption. USPS Priority Mail International is the worked example: at 20 days of transit its ship-by falls 5 days before its published cutoff.

Carrier cutoffs above are the carriers' own published planning estimates, not guarantees, and several are not one flat date across the country — see each row's note in the .xlsx. Ardent Workshop is not affiliated with USPS, UPS or FedEx. The cure default above is the cold-process soap cure time from Nettlecote Candle & Soap Co., the invented candle-and-soap brand this worked example uses — illustrative, never a customer or a case study.

One tab is the beginning, not the whole season

One tab is enough to feel the mechanism work. It is not enough to run a whole season on.

WHAT THE FULL WORKBOOK ADDS

The full **Maker's Holiday-Season Production & Market Planner** plans the whole season across eleven tabs: a demand forecast that spreads what you expect to sell across the weeks, a week-by-week build schedule measured against the hours you actually have, a materials list with the last day you can order every line, a market and fair calendar costed to what a booth has to sell before it pays for itself, a discount checker that names the largest discount each product can survive before the sale costs you money, and a make-by date for every product from that product's OWN cure time — a 27-day spread between the soap and the body butter in the worked example, not the one global figure this free card uses. [Get the full Maker's Holiday-Season Production & Market Planner >](#)

See the full range at ardentworkshop.com.

This is a planning tool, not a shipping guarantee. Carrier cutoffs, transit times and holiday schedules change; always confirm against the carrier's own current page before you rely on a date.

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