



HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

The holiday shopping season is here, and millions of people will be heading to the shopping mall, hoping to find the perfect gifts for friends and family. Despite the joys and frustrations of holiday shopping, remember that crime doesn't take a holiday!

The following tips will help make your trip to the shopping mall safer for you and your family this holiday season:

- Choose to do your holiday shopping at malls that take security seriously. Regular mall security patrols and visible surveillance cameras provide an added layer of security, and act as a deterrent to criminals
- Stay alert and aware of what's going on around you
- Never leave your purse in a shopping cart or on a counter while you pay for your purchases
- Never carry large amounts of cash. Whenever possible, use credit cards or checks instead of cash
- Keep your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps, and if you have a wallet, put it in an inside coat or front pants pocket
- Try to shop with friends and relatives – there is safety in numbers! If you are shopping with children, teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated

You also need to think about parking lot safety while you're shopping. Cars can be an easy target for criminals, so keep these suggestions in mind:

- Park in a well lighted space and be sure to lock your car
- When returning to your car, have your keys in hand, ready to open the door
- Make sure there is no visible property in your vehicle. While you are shopping, make sure you store your packages in the trunk. If you take packages to the car but plan to return to the store or mall, drive your car to a new location within the parking lot. Criminals can be on the lookout for unsuspecting shoppers who simply drop their purchases into the trunk and then return to keep shopping

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!