



Holiday Shopping Safety

Before Shopping

- ❖ Turn off all lights & blow-out all open flame candles before leaving home
- ❖ Never leave children home alone without an adult or child 13 years of age or older
- ❖ Avoid shopping alone
- ❖ Shop during daylight hours, if dark:
 - ✓ Shop with a friend
 - ✓ Park in well-lighted space
 - ✓ Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- ❖ Keep your purse or wallet with you
- ❖ Keep valuables out of plain view in your car
- ❖ While shopping never leave children alone:
 - ✓ In a car
 - ✓ In public facilities (arcade or playground)

After Shopping-Walking to Car

- ❖ When leaving the stores, if dark or late at night ask security to escort you to your car
- ❖ When walking to your car:
 - ✓ Walk confidently with your head up and noticing surroundings
 - ✓ Walk in well-lighted and well traveled area where there are lots of people
- ❖ Be aware of people around you. Scan the area around your car. Make sure nobody is hiding nearby-If someone looks suspicious report them and request for an escort
- ❖ Have your car key in your hand and ready to unlock your car
- ❖ Once at your car:
 - ✓ Look inside to make sure nobody is hiding
 - ✓ When loading purchases put your purse in first, then children, packages, etc.
 - ✓ Once in vehicle, lock doors immediately

During Shopping

- ❖ Do not carry too many packages-*lock them in your car trunk or not in plain view*
- ❖ Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- ❖ Wear your purse strapped across your body and wallets in front pocket
- ❖ Use credit or bank ATM card or checks rather than carrying cash.
 - ✓ Keep credit slips-tear & discard later
 - ✓ If ATM is used, use as "credit" so you do not have to use your PIN number
- ❖ If you need an ATM, use one located in a mall, store, or well-lighted location
- ❖ In public restrooms-do not hang a purse on handles/hooks and never on the floor
- ❖ Always go with your child when taking them to the restroom
- ❖ Teach your child never to talk to or go anywhere with strangers
- ❖ Use the shopping cart safety belt for a child
- ❖ On escalators-hold a child's hand facing them forward and make sure shoes are tied



Once at Home

- ❖ Take infants & toddlers from car and into to home first, then remove gifts
- ❖ Keep all wrapped gifts hidden in closets, not under your tree, so they are out of sight to prevent a burglary
- ❖ Put gifts under you tree on December 24th



Remove Baby First

Sources: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children & National Crime Prevention Council