

Stay safe this Holiday Season with Safety Tips from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department



WHO'S ON YOUR SHOPPING LIST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

If you don't practice safe holiday shopping, you may be doing a burglar's shopping.



Holiday Shopping Crime Prevention Tips

- ❖ Shop during daylight hours if possible.
- ❖ Park as close to your destination as possible. Take notice of where you parked and try to park in well-lit areas.
- ❖ Lock your vehicle and do not leave valuables in the vehicles.
- ❖ Shop with a group or with a partner. There is safety in numbers and they can help carry purchased items.
- ❖ Do not be distracted while walking to and from your vehicle. This includes looking for keys, fumbling with packages and using cell phones while walking.
- ❖ Dress casually and comfortably, and avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- ❖ If possible, do not carry a purse or a wallet. If you carry a purse, use a strap that goes across the body diagonally, keep it zipped/closed and do not leave it in shopping carts or unattended. If you carry a wallet, do not carry it in your back pocket, carry it in an inside jacket pocket or your front pants pocket.
- ❖ Limit the amount of cash and/or credit cards you carry while shopping, take only what you will use in order to mitigate possible loss in the event something happens.
- ❖ Do not take out your wallet, credit card or checkbook until asked to do so. This will prevent "Shoulder Surfing" from nearby people who could steal your identity.
- ❖ Keep all receipts.
- ❖ Utilize escort services provided by Shop Security or store employees to escort you safely to your vehicle.
- ❖ Have your keys in hand before exiting the stores.
- ❖ When leaving shopping centers with your purchases, do not load the vehicle with your purchases and then reenter the store. Burglars may be observing this and see an opportunity to break into your car. Instead, load your vehicle with your purchases and leave immediately.



For more tips, contact the Crime Prevention Specialist at your local San Diego Sheriff's Department