
Holiday Security Tips



Before You Shop:

- ★ Carry small amounts of cash.
- ★ Carry your keys, cash and credit cards separate from each other.
- ★ Be extremely careful using ATM machines. Try to use them in populated places and pay close attention to what's going on around you.

While Shopping:

- ★ If you do carry a purse or bag, carry it close to your body and always zipped.
- ★ Park strategically—as close to the store entrance as possible. Park in well-lit areas. Avoid parking next to large vehicles, bushes, or dumpsters.
- ★ Leave the store well before closing time. This way, there is greater assurance you will walk out with other people. There is safety in numbers.
- ★ Avoid shopping until you are exhausted. You are more alert when you are less tired.
- ★ When hurried or in a crowded shop, make sure you get all forms of ID and credit cards returned to you before leaving.
- ★ Ask for security to escort you to your vehicle if you are leaving late at night.
- ★ Check around and inside your car as you approach it. You don't want to be taken by surprise.

- ★ Keep your packages stored out of sight, in the trunk of your car, if you are going to continue shopping at another location. Criminals know to walk through shopping center parking lots to look for newly purchased gifts. Be sure to keep the receipts separate from the purchased items. Criminals often return items stolen out of vehicles for cash or a gift card before you even know they're gone!

At Home:

- ★ Keep gifts (and purses) hidden from view through outside windows.
- ★ After opening gifts, break down cardboard boxes to avoid revealing your purchase of expensive electronics or other valuable items.

Be Alert to Holiday Scams

Charitable Giving Scams

As the holidays approach, more people are giving to charitable organizations. However, it is still important to be wary of fraud. Charitable giving scams target those wanting to help. Scams are sent to victims via email requests, letters, or phone calls. Scammers often use legitimate-sounding names and ask for donations. However, the donation does not end up going to the agency it was intended for.

Avoid being a victim!

1. Never respond to unsolicited emails/phone calls from charities asking for money. Contact charities directly.
2. Research the organization prior to contributing. Know where your donation is going and how it will be used. Ask for information about the charity in writing. Remember, not all donations are tax deductible.