



## Safety Tips for Holiday Shoppers

Twelve important safety tips to keep in mind as you begin your holiday shopping:

### Shopping in Stores

1. Do not buy more than you can carry. Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car.
2. Save all receipts. Print and save all confirmations from your online purchases. Start a file folder to keep all receipts together and to help you verify credit card or bank statements as they come in.
3. Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook. A seasoned thief could be looking over your shoulder to get your account information.
4. Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package.
5. If you are shopping with children, make a plan in case you get separated from them. Select a central meeting place and teach them to know they can ask mall personnel or store security employees if they need help.
6. Beware of pickpockets. Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front pants pocket.
7. Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. Always check the back seat and around the car before getting into it.
8. Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the trunk or, if possible, take them directly home.

### Shopping Online

9. Before surfing the Internet, secure your personal computers by updating your security software. Everyone's computer should have anti-virus, anti-spyware, and anti-spam software, as well as a good firewall installed.
10. Keep your personal information private and your password secure. Do not respond to requests to "verify" your password or credit card information unless you initiated the contact. Legitimate businesses will not contact you in this manner.
11. Beware of "bargains" from companies with whom you are unfamiliar - if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
12. Only use secure websites for purchases. Look for the icon of a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen or "https" in the URL address.