

Safety Tips for Christmas Shopping



The holiday shopping season can be a time of great joy. But Christmas shopping can also pose safety risks. Below are some safety tips to keep in mind while shopping.

- Carry a cell phone and program emergency and non-emergency for your area.
- If you plan on carrying a purse or handbag, carry it as close to your body as possible.
- Try to shop during the daytime hours and bring a friend or family member with you. Safety in numbers!
- Carry minimal amounts of cash.
- Have credit card numbers and customer service numbers written down at home, just in case.
- If your card(s) are lost or stolen, call the credit card company immediately and report the loss.
- Do not overload yourself with packages.
- If you must leave purchases in your vehicle, place them in the trunk or out of view.
- When walking to the parking lot, have your keys in hand.
- When unloading the contents of a shopping cart into your vehicle, do not leave your purse unattended in the shopping cart.
- Be cautious of anyone who approaches you in a parking lot or in a store. It could be a "con artist" or someone trying to distract you in order to steal.
- Wear minimal amounts of jewelry.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Inside a mall, avoid darkened hallways and other backroom areas, especially near closing time. Avoid using bathrooms that are tucked away in a back area of a mall concourse or department. If you can, find a bathroom near the mall's food court or other well-trafficked area. Always accompany your child to the bathroom.