

'Tis the Season to be Stealing, it's that time of year

How to Ensure a Crime-Free Holiday While Shopping

As everyone knows the busiest shopping season is right after Thanksgiving. It is the time of year stores run some fantastic sales and give the consumer some great deals. But it is also the time of year that the Scrooge's are out to find some great and fantastic deals at your expense. Thefts, Burglary of Motor Vehicles and Auto Thefts go up do to people getting caught up in the season and lowering their guard. People tend to leave valuables in their vehicles and forget to lock their cars and both of these give a thief an open invitation to deprive you of your hard earned property.

Holiday Shopping at the Stores

Enjoy the decorations and merchandise, but stay alert.

Always be aware of what is going on around you.

Don't leave packages visible through car windows; lock them in the trunk or if possible take them directly home.

Never walk alone, walk with someone or have someone from the store or a security guard walk you out to your vehicle.

When carrying your purchases, don't overburden yourself so that you would not be able to react quickly and easily if you need to.

Take only what you need in purse or wallet, and keep a tight hold on it. Carry purse closed and snugly against your body; carry your wallet in a front pocket or coat pocket. If possible use a fanny pack to carry what you need, this keeps you hands free and you can conceal the fanny pack under a jacket out of sight.

File receipts in your wallet immediately; identity thieves can get important personal information from them.

Park and Walk in well-lighted areas.

Lock your car after entering or exiting your vehicle, visually look inside and around the vehicle before getting in to make sure no one is inside or around your vehicle.

Teach your children to go to security or store employees if they get separated from you, and be sure they know your name not just mom or dad so they can tell the security or store employee your name to call you by on the intercom system.

TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME®

When Shopping Online

Beware of “bargains” from companies you are unfamiliar with—
if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Shop with companies you know; make sure the site uses a secure connection for purchases.

Keep your personal information private and your password secure. Do not respond to requests to “verify” your password or credit card information unless *you* ask for it—credible retailers should already have that information!



If you an questions about other
Holiday Safety Tips contact Officer Doug Sisk, Duncanville Police
Department Community Relations / Crime Prevention Officer
(972) 780-5027 dsisk@duncanvillepd.com.