



Holiday Safety Tips

CAR WARM UPS

PLEASE DO NOT WARM YOUR VEHICLE UP WITH YOUR KEYS INSIDE OF THEM. WHEN THE WEATHER GETS COLD, WE TEND TO WARM OUR VEHICLES UP WHILE WE GO BACK INSIDE OF OUR HOMES. HOWEVER CRIMINALS SEE THIS AS AN OPPURTUNITY TO STEAL YOUR VEHICLE. PLEASE DO NOT WARM YOUR VEHICLES UP; YOU DON'T WANT TO BECOME A VICTIM. WE HAVE ALREADY EXPERIANCED AN INCREASE OF VEHICLE THEFT FROM VEHICLE WARM UPS.

Be Discreet:

- Never carry large amounts of money. Whenever possible, use credit cards or debit cards instead of cash. When using credit cards, make sure that only one credit slip is printed with your charge card. Also, be sure to keep track of all transactions and destroy any carbon copies. Credit card fraud can ruin your holiday season.
- Do not withdraw large amounts of money from the bank at one time, especially ATMs. When you go to the bank or ATM, try to go during daylight hours.

Be Alert:

- Walk confidently, with your head up, and stay in well-lighted and well-traveled areas.
- Pay attention when you are in crowded areas - places with large crowds are favorites for thieves and pickpockets.
- If you carry a purse, keep it in front of you and close to your body. Keep your purse with you at all times.
- Never leave your purse in a shopping cart or on a counter while you pay for your purchases.
- Keys should not be carried in the purse when possible. In the event of a purse snatching, the thief will have your address and keys to your home.
- Gentlemen, carry your wallet in your front pants pocket or inside breast pocket of your coat.
- Avoid shopping alone - shop with family or friends if possible.
- Shop during the daytime, when possible.

Secure Your Car and Home:

- Park your car as close to your destination as possible and in well-lighted areas.
- Keep your car locked and keep valuables completely out of sight.**
- When you are shopping, remember to store your packages in the trunk of the car and not in the back seat. Also, if you are taking packages to the car but plan to return shopping, drive to a new location within the parking lot. Criminals can be on the lookout for unsuspecting shoppers who simply drop their purchases into the trunk and then return to keep shopping.
- Do not leave any items in your car overnight (Garmin, radar detector, phone, etc.)**
- Keep your hands free and avoid carrying an excessive number of packages. Have your keys in hand and be ready to open the door as soon as you leave the store.
- Scan the areas surrounding your vehicle both when you park and when you return to your vehicle. If you do not feel comfortable with any suspicious persons in the parking lot, do NOT go to your car. Notify the security for the business and if none are available, notify the police dept
- Visually check the front and back seats of your vehicle before opening the door and getting in. Lock your doors immediately after entering the vehicle.
- Take extra steps to secure your home. Do not leave gifts by doors or windows where they can be seen by thieves.

