



# Holiday Safety Tips

The holiday season is often a joyous time of giving, sharing, and spending time with family and friends. Unfortunately, this time of year is also shared with a particularly high crime rate.

Following are a few basic tips for a safe and happy holiday season.

## At Home:

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when leaving home, even for a few minutes.
- Do not display holiday gifts where they may be seen from a window or doorway.
- Store gifts away before you go on a holiday trip.
- Test smoke detectors.
- Use only fire resistant ornaments on your holiday tree and make sure electric lights are in good working order.
- Do not leave holiday lights on overnight or when you are away from home.
- After the holidays, break down boxes from gifts before putting them out for trash collection so that criminals cannot determine exactly what gifts are in your home.

## While Shopping:

- Try to coordinate shopping trips with a friend.
- Shop before dark whenever possible.
- Never park in an unlit parking lot or area, no matter how convenient it is.
- Lock packages in your vehicle's trunk. Keep the doors locked and windows closed.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. When possible, pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card.
- If hosting a holiday party, have non-alcoholic beverages available for your guests. Also have alternative transportation for intoxicated persons. Do not let your guests drink and drive.