

The holiday season is always a special time of the year. Yet during the season's hustle and bustle, shoppers can especially become careless and vulnerable to theft and other crime. Don't become a crime victim this holiday season! Please stay aware and consider these crime prevention tips:

WHILE SHOPPING

Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you shop at night, ask someone you know to accompany you.

Do not wear expensive jewelry.

Keep your purse closed and do not leave your wallet or checkbook visible.

If you carry a purse, wear the strap so that it crosses in front of your body. Or, hold it in front of you, keeping the flap against your body.

Secure your purse between your body and your arm.

Carry your wallet in an inside front pocket.

Carry your keys in your pocket; you'll be able to drive home if your purse is stolen.

Avoid carrying a lot of cash; carry only the credit cards you plan to use.

Keep money in different pockets. If you do get "pick-pocketed", you won't be left high and dry.

Do not "pat" your pockets to check for your wallet — this alerts criminals to the location of your wallet.

Avoid overloading yourself with packages.

Do not leave your belongings and purchases unattended — not even for a brief time.

Keep a list of credit card agencies and phone numbers in case you have to report them lost or stolen.

If you use an ATM, protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from those standing around you.

CHILDREN

When possible, leave young children at home with a responsible babysitter.

Teach your children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.

Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you are separated.

Do not allow your children to go to the restroom unaccompanied.

Children should not be allowed to go to the car alone — never leave them alone in the car.

Teach your children their full name, address, and phone number to give to police or a security guard if they become lost.

Teach your children it is important that they tell you immediately if a person they don't know is bothering them.

DRIVING AND PARKING

Lock your doors and close your windows when you leave your car and activate any alarm and/or anti-theft device.

If you shop at night, park in well-lit areas.

Avoid parking next to, or between vans or large vehicles that block visibility.

Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.

Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.

Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running.

Never leave your child unattended in the car, even with the doors locked — not even for a minute.

Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.

PROTECTING YOUR VEHICLE

Do not leave packages, valuables or other items visible in your car; store them in your trunk when possible.

Do not keep original ownership papers in your vehicle.

Never leave money or credit cards in the console or glove compartment.

Do not use key rings with identifying information. Should you lose your keys, a thief could locate your car and burglarize your home.

If you park in a lot where you must leave the keys, leave only the ignition key — it will help you protect items in the trunk and/or glove box.

Always activate car alarms and anti-theft devices even when leaving for a few minutes it only takes a few minutes for your car to be stolen.

BE A HARD TARGET

Stay alert, take time to lift your head and see what's going on around you.

Project confidence; walk purposely, make quick eye contact with people around you.

Be wary of any stranger who aggressively volunteers to assist you.

Turn your waist pack toward the front of your body.

Don't carry valuables in the outside pocket of a backpack; put them in the middle of the backpack and keep it zipped.

Watch out for staged mishaps, like someone bumping into you or spilling a drink. It might be a ploy to divert your attention while someone else grabs your wallet or other valuables.

If you think you are being followed, change directions or cross the street.

When approaching your car, have your keys ready in hand.

Check around, under, and in the back seat of your car before entering.

Be especially alert when using enclosed or underground parking structures.

If you are a victim of theft or your vehicle is broken into or stolen, you should call the Salem Police Department at 978-744-1212 and report it immediately.

Stolen vehicles are often used to commit other crimes. Your quick action may aid in the recovery of your car and prevention of its use for illegal purposes.

Salem Police Department
95 Margin Street
Salem, MA 01970
978-744-0171

www.salempd.net

Copyright 2009
Salem Police Department

Help eliminate crime by reviewing the checklist below and employing these important safety tips whenever you go out:

DO

- . Always lock all vehicle doors.
- . Keep windows rolled up.
- . Record serial numbers and engrave your driver's license number on removable car equipment (increases ease of identification and reduces marketability).
- . Carry as few valuables in your vehicle as possible.
- . Place items out of sight before you reach your destination.
- . Lock packages in the trunk.
- . Park in well-lit areas.
- . Check the back seat and the area around the car before entering your vehicle.
- . Activate any anti-theft devices.
- . Call 978-744-1212 to report an auto burglary; call 9-1-1 for any crime in progress.

DON'T

- . Leave items in plain view.
- . Leave remote garage door openers in your vehicle.
- . Leave your engine running and leave your vehicle unattended.
- . Keep original ownership papers in your vehicle.
- . Leave your purse, wallet, or other identifying papers or keys in your vehicle.
- . Overburden yourself with too many packages. They can hinder you if you need to protect yourself.
- . DO NOT confront individuals. If you witness someone burglarizing your vehicle, **CALL 9-1-1**.

DON'T BE A VICTIM

PROTECTING YOUR HOME

Avoid displaying presents through your living room window. After presents are opened, don't let your trash bins announce the new acquisitions. Record the serial and model numbers of your gifts before you give them or as soon as you receive them.

Protect your holiday mail. Empty your mailbox each day; place a lock on it if possible. Also, when sending mail, use the slots inside the post office to avoid possible mailbox tampering.

Be a good neighbor. Call the police if you observe people knocking on doors in your neighborhood without a legitimate reason.

Remember that it is important to report crime. If you report it, the police can allocate resources where they are most needed.



Your attention and effort in stopping crime helps reduce opportunities for criminals to strike. Remember to secure your vehicle and residence by always locking your doors and windows. Report all suspicious activities in Salem, including those occurring away from home, to 978-744-1212 Call 9-1-1 for emergencies.

**Salem Police Department
95 Margin Street
Salem, MA 01970
978-744-0171**

www.salempd.net

Salem Police Department



Chief Paul F. Tucker

**Holiday Safety,
Crime Prevention
& YOU**

**Holiday Safety Tips
From the
Salem Police
Department**

In Service to the Community