

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



This holiday season don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, robbers, muggers, car thieves, and pickpockets a chance to do their dirty work.

Crooks love the holiday season as much as everyone else, but mainly because it is an opportune time for crime.

Help the Memphis Police Department make this a safer holiday season by following these safety tips.



Homes jam packed with glittering gifts. Stores, malls and downtown streets teeming with unsuspecting shoppers. People rushing around, stressed out and careless, looking for last minute gifts, trying to get everything done. It's enough to make a crook giddy with holiday joy! Here are some tips from the Memphis Police Department on how to celebrate safely this holiday season:

IF YOU'RE TRAVELING

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Don't forget to have your mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up it's a sure sign that you're gone.

IF YOU'VE GONE OUT

- Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like you are home.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from the outside.

IF YOU'RE SHOPPING

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Never leave cell phones, IPODs, laptop computers or anything else of value in your car. Lock them in the trunk or take them with you.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay by check or credit card whenever possible.
- Deter pickpockets and purse snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages and be extra careful with your wallet or purse. Carry your purse close to your body, don't dangle it by the straps. Put your wallet in an inside coat or pants pocket.
- Shopping with your kids? Tell them to go to a store clerk or find a security guard if you get separated.

