



## SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

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**Here are some basic steps you can take to prevent or minimize the risk of becoming a victim of assault, robbery, or a car break-in while shopping.**

Keep all purses and bags zipped and snapped closed.

Do not flash large amounts of cash when paying for merchandise.

If using a debit card, keep the card close to your body so the card number will not be able to be photographed by a cell phone.

Always shop with a buddy. **You** are less of a target when you have someone with you.

If you have to take a phone call or text message - don't let your guard down and get distracted while shopping.

Let someone know where you are going and what time you may be returning.

If using a shopping cart, try to secure your purse or bags with the child locking system.

Do not carry large amounts of merchandise at one time.

Do not carry your social security card or birth certificate in your wallet or purse.

Carry only a minimum amount of credit cards at one time.

**Consider keeping your cell phone on your person in case someone demands your purse.**

When you go shopping, make frequent trips to your vehicle to get rid of shopping bags. This will prevent you from having your arms full of bags when you are done shopping.

Park in a **well-lit** parking lot. **Park as close to the store entrance as possible.**

Always lock your doors when you are driving or **just sitting in the car.**

When returning to your car, look under, in and around your car while approaching it.



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Do not leave valuables in plain view in your car.

Be suspicious and aware by nature. If you get a gut feeling that something is not right, then act on your instinct.

Be confident and look people in the eyes. If you do this you are more likely to dissuade an attacker. **You may also be able to give better identifying characteristics of an attacker.**

If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, contact the police department or the stores security officer.

**Report any suspicious people to store security, customer service or call 911.**

**“KEEP SAFE BY BEING PREPARED”**