



## Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Holiday Shopping Safety Tips



The last few months of the year tend to be the time when a majority of all shopping is done. With the increase of shoppers comes an increase in the possibility of becoming a crime victim. Many of the crimes committed could be prevented. You can make it tough on criminals by taking away their opportunity to commit crimes in the first place.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department would like to provide you with some Holiday Shopping Safety Tips so the Crime Grinch doesn't ruin your holiday.

### **Safety In The Parking Lots**

1. Park and walk in well-lit areas.
2. Walk with confidence, be aware of people around you, and know where you parked.
3. Always lock your car doors after leaving or entering your car.
4. Have your car keys in hand so you don't have to linger before entering your car. Check the back seat before you get in.
5. Don't leave packages on the car seats. Keep packages out of sight in the trunk or under a covered rear cargo area.

### **Safety While Shopping**

1. Pay with checks or credit cards when possible. Don't flash large amounts of cash.
2. Don't leave any purchases or your purse unattended while shopping or in a dressing room.
3. Try to carry as little as possible. Make multiple trips to your vehicle to store your purchases.
4. Never leave your children alone.
5. If your children get separated from you, teach them to find a cashier or security officer and ask for help.
6. Report all suspicious activity. Call 911 with a description.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department wishes your family a happy and safe holiday season.



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department  
Crime Prevention Unit  
601 East Trade Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202