



SHOPPING SAFETY

Chesterfield County Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit (804) 318 - 8699

Shopping should be a safe, enjoyable experience. Unfortunately, there are those who seek to take advantage of shoppers. To protect yourself and help prevent you from becoming a victim of crime, there are some simple, common sense precautions you can take to reduce your risk:

- If possible, shop during daylight hours.
- Shop with a friend or a group of friends.
- Avoid wearing excessive or expensive jewelry.
- Choose parking spaces in high traffic, well-lit areas, as close to entrances as possible.
- Do not leave valuables visible inside your car. Purses, laptops, cameras, GPS units, portable music players and cash attract attention and tempt thieves.
- Always lock your car, even if you are leaving for only a short period of time. Make sure all windows, including the sunroof, are completely closed.
- Stay alert. Pay attention to your surroundings. Be aware of those around you and do not allow yourself to be distracted. Offenders may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- Keep your purse closed, carry it close to your body and keep a firm grip on it.
- Never leave your purse or wallet unattended in a shopping cart.
- Avoid carrying multiple credit cards and large amounts of cash.
- Conceal your credit card numbers and personal identification numbers (PIN).
- Do not overburden yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Walk facing traffic so you can see approaching cars.
- Have keys in your hand as you approach your vehicle.
- Check the back seat of your car before entering.
- Once you are in your vehicle, lock your doors immediately.
- Never place packages or your purse on top of your vehicle.
- Immediately report suspicious persons and activities to police.

