



During [the holiday season](#), thieves, con artists, and people with sinister intentions are roaming around the busy shopping malls and avenues looking for their next victims. Carelessness and vulnerability are flashing go-signals [for burglars](#), muggers, and pickpockets. If you're going shopping, make sure to heed the tips. Our goal is to ensure everyone experiences a safe holiday season.

**1. If possible, leave your purse at home**

It is critical you do not bring additional attention to yourself while shopping. Minimize what you carry and if possible wear a fanny pack or wallet within a secure pocket.

**2. Do not carry an unnecessary amount of money or credit cards**

Carry only necessary items; often, one credit card is enough. Ensure you have written your credit card customer service number on a piece of paper or logged into your cellular phone in the event it is stolen. Consider making photocopies of the important things in your wallet, such as a driver's license and credit cards. Keep the photocopies at home.

**3. Walk in busy, well-lit areas**

Thieves are more likely to strike in dark and secluded areas. It is best if you walk briskly and confidently in busier and well-lit areas. In addition, you may want to consider bringing a friend with you while shopping this holiday season.

**4. Be aware of your surroundings**

Awareness of your surroundings is one of the most important factors you need to consider when you're shopping. Take a good look at the faces and hands of people around you. Most thieves like to strike swiftly without being recognized. Do not appear to be vulnerable or exposed and make sure you can describe them if such incident occurs.

**5. Hold your purse close to your body**

Whether you're on a bus, train or walking ensure your purse is closed and close to your body. You may consider placing your purse / bag under your coat. Do not leave your purse in your shopping cart or on a counter

**7. Record credit card assistance numbers**

Record these numbers in your cell and in a safe place at within your residence.

MasterCard: 1-800-MC-ASSIST (622-7747)  
Visa: 1-800-VISA-911 (847-2911)  
American Express: 1-800-528-4800

Discover: 1-800-DISCOVER (347-2683)  
PayPal: 1-888-221-1161



**For more information about crime in your area, please contact:**

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