

Holiday “Safe Shopper” Tips

Season’s Greetings from the Azle Police Department

The season of giving is upon us, and the hustle and bustle of holiday shopping is in full swing. The Azle Police Department would like to pass on a few holiday safety tips to ensure your holidays are truly merry and bright!

When Shopping



- Stay alert and be aware of what’s going on around you.
- Try to shop with friends or relatives. There *is* safety in numbers.
- Consolidate purchases into 1 or 2 large shopping bags to keep track of everything. Don’t overburden yourself with packages. Never leave purchases unattended, even for a few minutes.
- Deter pickpockets/thieves by carrying your purse close to your body with the top zipped or snapped. If carrying a wallet, keep it in your front pocket instead of a back pocket.
- Make sure only one credit slip is printed with your charge/debit card and tear up any copies.

Vehicle Security

Making it home safely with all those holiday purchases is everyone’s goal. Because cars can be an easy target for criminals, it is essential to practice habits that make you and your vehicle less of a target for opportunistic thieves.



- Park your car in a well lit area and as close to your destination as possible.
- Store your packages in the trunk of the car - not the back seat.
- When returning to your car, scan the area around your vehicle, have your keys in your hand, ready to open the door. The few seconds you save may keep you from becoming a crime victim. Before entering your vehicle, carefully check the front and rear seats/floors and lock your doors immediately.
- If you see anyone loitering near your car that looks/acts suspicious, walk away and alert a security guard.
- Don’t hesitate to use the panic button on your key fob if you feel threatened.

Holiday Shopping with Kids

- Shopping with kids can be tiring and frustrating for both you and your child. Limit the chaos by shopping with another adult, so you can take turns browsing and watching the children.
- Keep children close by at all times— don’t let them wander off unsupervised. Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security guard if they get separated from you. Tell them never to go to the parking lot to look for you or the car. Use extra caution around public restrooms.
- When bringing infants or toddlers on a shopping trip, limit the excursion to one or two hours. Remove your child’s coat or sweater once indoors since overheated children can get cranky. While waiting in line, give your child a book, toy, or snack to keep them occupied.

ATM Security

ATM's are handy to have around when you're out shopping, but they can also be attractive to thieves. To protect yourself:

- Choose an ATM in a highly visible, well-lit area and have someone accompany you, if possible. Try not to make large cash withdrawals.
- Minimize time spent at the ATM by having your card in your hand. Leave immediately after your transaction - resist the temptation to count the cash after it's been dispensed.
- While using an ATM, be aware of your surroundings. If anything/anyone seems suspicious, immediately cancel your transaction, leave, and call 9-1-1.
- Never leave your receipt in the ATM; or better yet, have your receipt emailed to you if your bank offers this option. Keeping your receipts provides you with a record to check against your monthly bank statements.
- Handle your bank card with the same care as you would cash or credit cards. Keep your card in a safe place and memorize your PIN instead of writing it down.



From all of us at the AZLE POLICE DEPARTMENT,
we wish you a safe and happy holiday season and a great New Year