



Christmas is a time to relax and have fun but it can also be very busy and stressful. You may be out and about more than usual for that essential Christmas shopping and the last thing you need is to become a victim of crime - to help avoid this, consider some of the following advice:

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

- Don't get loaded down with too many bags. Try to keep one hand free.
- Try and avoid taking young children into busy shopping areas. If it is unavoidable, make sure they know what to do if they lose you, e.g. tell the nearest counter assistant that they are lost and NEVER leave a shop without you.
- Agree a meeting point with older children in case you get separated.
- Be careful where you park your car, especially if you will be returning to it after dark
- If parking in a multi-storey car park, choose a well lit space as close to the exit as possible and away from pillars. Reverse into position.
- Keep car doors locked whilst driving in built up areas, especially if you've got bags of present in the car.
- Don't leave lots of present on show in a parked car as they could attract thieves.
- Keep alert and aware of your surroundings, especially in busy shops and crowded streets where thieves and pickpockets may well be operating. (purse bells are available for sale for £1 from the Neighbourhood Watch office telephone 01352 708118)
- Keep a close watch on your valuables and try not to keep them all in one place.



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