

# South Gate Police Department

## Crime Prevention Holiday Tips (Shopping)



- When parking your vehicle to go shopping, remember where you parked it! Always park in a well-lit and well-traveled area. Do not park in a remote dark area.



- When you return to your vehicle, scan the interior of your car to be sure no one is hiding inside. Check to see if you are being followed.



- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. You will be ready to unlock the door and will not be delayed by fumbling and looking for your keys.



- When storing items purchased at the stores, place them out of sight. The best place is in a locked trunk.



- Do not leave your purse, wallet, or cellular telephone in plain view.



- Don't resist if someone tries to take any of your belongings. Don't chase someone who robs you, they may have a weapon. Instead call 911.



- If you travel or shop, go with a group of friends. There is safety in numbers.



- Lock your vehicle and roll up your windows even while you are driving.



- If you go to an automatic teller machine for cash, check for people around and make sure it is well lit and in a safe location.



- Beware of the "a good deal" scams. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

*For More Information*

*Contact Sean Palos, Crime Prevention Specialist*

*Email SPALOS@SOGATE.ORG or Call (323) 563-5465*

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## Crime Prevention Holiday Tips (Home)



- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your house or apartment, even for a few minutes.



- Don't openly display your tree and gifts in the front window so they are easily visible from the street.



- Don't advertise...burglars look for occupancy cues like outdoor lights burning 24 hours a day, piled up newspapers, mail, or advertising flyers hanging on the door knob.



- When storing items purchased at the stores, place them out of sight. The best place is in a locked trunk.



- Use an inexpensive light timer when you are away and ask a neighbor to pick up your newspapers and mail. If you are going away for the Holidays you can stop your mail online at <https://holdmail.usps.com/holdmail/>.



- Have FedEx, UPS, USPS, and any other delivery service drop-off packages at an authorized holding facility.



- If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so the house or apartment appears to be occupied.



- Be mindful of burning candles and too many lights plugged into outlets/extension cords.



- Burglars know to look for the hidden door key near the front entrance. Don't hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above door ledges.



- Burglars prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows. A holiday problem can occur when exterior Christmas light extension cords are run inside through a window and prevent it from being secured.

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