



## LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

# NEWS RELEASE

City of Lancaster  
Bureau of Police, 39 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Pa. 17603  
[www.lancasterpolice.com](http://www.lancasterpolice.com)

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Contact Number: 735-3300

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### Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

The holiday season is a time when busy people can become vulnerable to thefts, robberies and other crimes. As the holiday shopping season begins, the Lancaster City Bureau of Police would like to offer some tips to help citizens be more cautious, prepared and aware. Criminals are opportunists and look to take advantage of careless or distracted persons. Taking a few prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous.

When shopping:

1. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or wearing expensive jewelry.
2. Do not carry a wallet or purse if possible. If you do carry a purse, keep it close to your body at all times. Wallets or cash should be carried in your front pocket.
3. When using credit or debit cards, be sure your card is returned and you retrieve all of your possession before leaving the store. Check your receipts, and later, compare your receipts with credit card statements.
4. Immediately cancel any lost or stolen credit / debit cards. Keep a record of all credit card numbers and credit card company phone numbers in a safe place at home.
5. Avoid overloading yourself with packages so you have clear visibility and freedom of motion.
6. Park in well-lit, well-traveled areas. Always lock your car.
7. Do not leave valuables, such as GPS units, cell phones, laptop computers, or packages in plain view inside your vehicle. Take small items of value with you, or leave them at home if possible. Hide items BEFORE you reach your destination – someone could be watching you hide items in the trunk.
8. If you drop off gifts / packages into your car and plan to immediately return to the mall or store, place the packages in the trunk or out of plain view. Drive the car to a different parking location if possible. Again, someone could be watching you load the packages and attempt to steal them after you walk away.
9. Beware of any suspicious persons following you or approaching you for any reason. “Con-artists” may try various methods to distract you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
10. Even though you are probably rushed, stressed, and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings, be prepared, and STAY SAFE. Report suspicious activity to police or security personnel immediately.

The Lancaster City Bureau of Police wishes everyone a SAFE and HAPPY holiday season.



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