



Christmas Shopping

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 to festive parties and other social events. To reduce the risk of experiencing crime during the festive season here are some helpful tips:

- 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 presents inside the car.
- Don't leave presents on show in a parked car, as they could tempt thieves.
- Keep alert and aware of your surroundings, especially in busy shops and crowded streets where thieves and pickpockets may well be operating.
- Keep a close watch on your valuables and try not to keep them all in one place.