

## Shopping With Kids?

- Keep a close eye on your children while shopping.
- Accompany them to the restroom – don't let them go off by themselves.
- Do not allow children to play underneath clothing racks.
- Teach your children to go to a store clerk (the person mom or dad pay) or a security guard, if they ever get separated from you in a store or mall.
- Be sure they know their first and last name so they can tell someone who they are.
- It is best to keep children under the age of 4 in a stroller. Children in shopping carts should be properly seated and belted in the child carrier area at all times. Never let your child stand in the cart or push a shopping cart.



## *Remember that children have limits.*

If you are shopping with children, be alert to their needs: are they tired, hungry, overexcited by the noise and confusion, or simply in need of fresh air and exercise? Their needs could draw your attention away just long enough for the criminal to take the opportunity to victimize you.



If possible, leave your children with a babysitter while you are shopping, consider making arrangements with family, friends, or neighbors. Better yet, take turns babysitting!



For information on this or any other Crime Prevention topic, please contact:

**Virginia Beach Police Department  
Crime Prevention Unit  
Phone: 757-385-1006  
Fax: 757-385-1064**

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# VIRGINIA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Holiday Shopping SAFETY

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**Police:  
Emergency Tel: 9-1-1  
Non Emergency Tel: 385-5000**

# HOLIDAY SEASON Shopping Safety



## Vehicle Safety Tips

- Park your car as close to your destination as possible and in a well-lighted space.
- Lock the car and close all windows.
- Return to your vehicle periodically to check on it. This will help to reduce the amount of packages you are carrying and must keep track of.
- Store packages in the trunk of your vehicle or if you do not have one, place the items out of plain view (the floorboard or under a blanket , clothes, etc.)
- When returning to your vehicle, have your keys in hand and ready to open the door.
- Stay alert and do not allow yourself to become distracted, especially when loading items in to or out of the vehicle, or while arranging packages.
- If you are approached and feel threatened, get into your car and lock the doors until they leave the area. If they loiter, drive away.

- Most malls and shopping centers have uniformed security officers, both inside and outside, for your safety. If you spot suspicious activity or feel nervous, return to the mall or store and ask for an escort to your car.



- Before entering your vehicle, carefully check the front and rear seats and floors for anyone who may be hiding there.
- Lock your doors immediately after entering your vehicle.

## Shopping Safety Tips

- Let someone know where you plan to do your shopping and what time you anticipate to return.
- Stay alert and be aware of what is going on around you.
- Dress comfortably and casually, and be extra careful with purses and wallets.
- Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. If someone grabs your purse **LET IT GO**. Your safety is more important than the property.

- Carry minimal cash and valuables, preferably in your front pockets.
- Wear a minimal amount of jewelry.
- Never leave your purse in a shopping cart or on a counter while you pay for your purchases.
- When using public restrooms, be cautious. Try to avoid putting your purse on hooks or door handles.



**If possible, shop with friends or relatives.**

**There IS safety in numbers.**

- As you shop, be alert in crowded places. Carry the day's most expensive purchases closest to your body.
- Do not carry so much that you lose the ability to react quickly.