

Holiday Safety Tips

FROM THE

Thornton

Police Department



THORNTON
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Holiday Safety Tips



The holiday season is a special time of year. It is also a time when people become vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime.

Please share this information with your family, friends and neighbors.

For more information contact:
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The Thornton Police Department
wishes you a safe holiday season.



www.cityofthornton.net/police

Driving

- Avoid driving at night alone.
- Keep vehicle doors locked and windows secured while in or out of your vehicle.
- Park in areas that have adequate lighting near your vehicle.
- Pay attention to where you parked in relation to the entrance of your destination.
- Never leave your vehicle running and unoccupied; whether at home in the driveway or in a public place.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle.
- When shopping do not leave packages or bags in plain view; secure them in the trunk.
- If you have to secure items in the trunk while shopping, relocate your vehicle to another area in the parking lot away from where you were just parked.
- Do not overload yourself with packages; make several trips if needed.
- Make sure your hands are free to handle keys and open doors without placing items on the ground or on top of your vehicle.
- Pay attention to your surroundings. Take a minute to look around before you get out of your vehicle or approach your vehicle.
- If there are suspicious people in the area do not park or get out of your vehicle. If you are leaving your shopping destination and see someone suspicious, ask security to walk you out or contact the police for assistance.



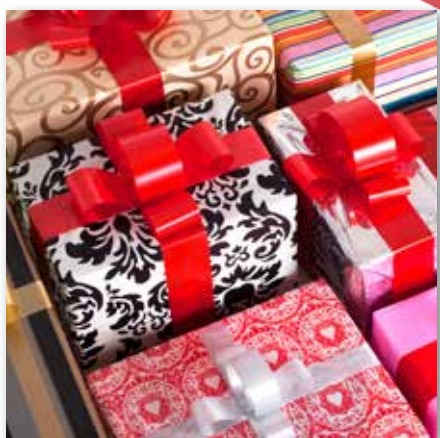
ATM *Automated Teller Machine*

- Choose an ATM that is inside a bank or mall. Make sure the location is populated and has adequate lighting.
- Only take out the amount of cash you need.
- Don't write down your PIN anywhere; this should be memorized.
- Pay attention to your surroundings and people around you.
- Shield the keypad with your hand as you enter your PIN if there are other people around you.
- Do not collect an ATM receipt unless you absolutely need one.

Shopping

- Have a plan or list for your shopping adventure.
- Let someone know where you're going and what time you'll be home.
- Carry a cell phone; if you don't have one, request a "9-1-1" cell phone from the Thornton Police Department.
- Use the buddy system when shopping. Shop alone only during daylight hours.
- Dress in clothes that allow you easy maneuvering in your movements.
- Leave expensive jewelry at home.
- Carry money, identification and credit cards somewhere other than your purse, such as a secure pocket or neck pouch tucked into your clothing.
- Only carry the needed-amount of cash and limit the number of credit cards you carry.
- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- If possible, pay for purchases with a credit card.





Shopping continued...

- Keep the phone numbers of your bank and credit card companies in a place that is easily accessible in case your cards or checks are lost or stolen. Report their loss or misuse immediately.
- Record your credit card numbers and keep them in a safe place at home.
- Do not overload yourself with packages or shopping bags.
- Be sure to have a clear sight of your walking path and freedom to use your hands and move your body without obstruction.
- Don't talk to strangers. A courteous 'hello' or 'happy holidays' is sufficient. Con-artists use various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

At home

- Lock doors and windows whenever your home.
- When leaving home for an extended time, ask a trusted neighbor or family member to watch your house. Have them pick up your newspapers and mail; or have the post office put a hold on your mail until you return.
- Contact the police department to put a vacation watch (extra patrol) on your home.
- Have a neighbor shovel the walk and put tire tracks in the driveway to make it appear someone is home.
- Place indoor and outdoor lights on a timer to go on-and-off at various times throughout the day.
- Leave a radio or TV on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- If visible through a window or door, don't leave gifts under the Christmas tree.
- Make sure bushes and trees are trimmed as not to obstruct your view from inside to the street or vice versa.
- Install motion-activated outdoor lights.





Answering your door

- Take a cell phone or home phone with you when you answer the door.
- Keep a barrier, such as a locked screen door, between you and the stranger.
- When accepting a delivery, ask the courier for identification.
- Look for the uniform and the associated truck with a courier before trusting them.
- Never let anyone inside your home. If they claim an emergency or hardship, offer to call 9-1-1 for them.
- If a stranger acts odd or suspicious, shut the door and call 9-1-1.

Keep your identity safe

- Shred documents that contain personal information.
- Check credit or debit card statements frequently after use.
- Check credit reports and get an annual free credit report.
- When shopping online, avoid using personal accounts; use gift cards or green cards.
- Look for the "https" a websites command line to make sure it's secure.
- Use credit cards instead of debit cards or checks directly linked to your personal accounts.
- If a store clerk swipes your card more than once, find out why. Never let a clerk leave the counter with your card.
- Get gift receipts on all purchases.
- Don't use 'on the go' scanning for your purchase.
- Contact your credit card issuers and have them disable "RFI" capability.



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