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12/ 20/ 2024

# El Paso Police Department Offers Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

**EL PASO, Texas**—The El Paso Police Department’s Auto Theft Task Force would like to inform the public on some safety tips for shopping and outings during the holiday season. By taking a few simple precautions, the public can help make sure gifts and other personal items don’t end up stolen or damaged.

**Watch Where You Park:** Find a parking space as close as you can to the store entrance and under a light, if it’s dark. Make a note of any nearby signs, poles, or other landmarks to make it easier to find your way back. Try to avoid parking next to large vans or SUVs that give a thief privacy.

**Lock it Up:** Many thefts are the result of unlocked cars. Double check to make sure you close the windows and lock all the doors before leaving the car. And don’t forget the sunroof.

**Hide the Goods:** Don’t leave packages, phones, music players, or other valuables on the seats, floor, dash, or anywhere in sight. Lock items in the trunk or otherwise stash them out of sight. Even a cell phone cord is an invitation for trouble.

**Keep Moving:** If you come out of the store to drop off a load of packages, move the car to another space before going back for more shopping, or better yet take them home. Criminals may be watching and know you won’t be back for a while.

**Stay Focused:** Pay attention to your surroundings while walking to and from your car. Walk with a purpose, and stay off the phone. Have your keys ready as you approach the car, and get yourself and your packages inside quickly. ***Then lock the doors.***

**Take Your Keys:** This may also seem a bit obvious but nearly half of all stolen vehicles have the keys in them and it is against the law to leave the keys in an unattended vehicle.

**The El Paso Police Department will also provide Steering Wheel Locks to Hyundai/Kia owners free of charge at all Regional Commands while supplies last.**

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Promoting Transparent & Consistent Communication  
Among All Members of the Community

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