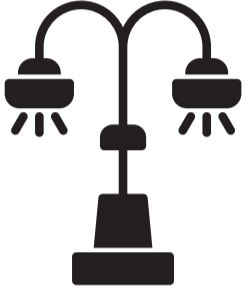




HOLIDAY PARKING SAFETY TIPS

The busy holiday shopping season brings crowded parking lots, safety risks, and an increased chance of theft. Heed the following tips while shopping this holiday season.



Park your vehicle in a well-lit area

Parking in a well-lit area can help deter criminals from targeting your vehicle. It can also make it easier to see any hazards or obstacles when you leave the parking lot.



Pay attention to your surroundings

Notice who is around you, especially when walking through a parking garage.



Don't leave valuables in your car

Store your belongings in your trunk so they are not a visible attraction for a car burglary. When on campus, make sure to pack up your belongings and take them with you, even when you are taking a short study break.



Store shopping bags out of sight

If you have no choice but to leave shopping bags in your car, hide them from view. The safest option is to put them in the trunk. You can also cover valuables with a blanket to keep them out of sight.



Have your keys in hand when walking back to your vehicle

Have keys/fob out and be ready to open the car door. Do not wait to rummage through a purse, bag, or pockets looking for keys when standing next to the car door.



Buy big ticket items last so you can go home afterward

By leaving with your big-ticket item last, you minimize the time your car is parked with valuables visible inside, making it less attractive to potential thieves.



Pay attention, keep your cell phone and anything that can distract you in your pocket

Focus on what is happening around you and avoid distractions by keeping your phone and any other items that might divert your attention stored away in your pocket, essentially minimizing the temptation to check them.