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A few excellent Holiday Safety Tips from our West Plaza partners.

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Safety during the Holidays

The holidays are a time when thieves are frequently on the prowl. Here are some tips to help keep your home, your car, your possessions, and your family safe.

Keeping Your Home Safe

We all want our homes to reflect the joy of the season, but avoid displaying gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway.
- Arrange to have packages delivered to a neighbor if you're not home to receive them. Packages left on porches or doorsteps are "easy picking" for thieves. It also draws unwanted attention to your home.
- Use simple outside decorations. Elaborate or large pieces are often stolen right off the lawn.
- Be sure not to obscure the view from your windows. Keep a clear view of your property.
- Always lock your home's doors and windows, even if you're only gone for a few minutes.
- **Compact or dispose of packaging discreetly. Often criminals will spot something you've discarded and can target you for their next burglary or theft.**
- When leaving town, have a trusted friend or neighbor take care of your home. Never cancel general deliveries such as mail, newspapers, and other services when leaving town or going on vacation.

Staying Safe While Shopping

- Always lock your car and close the windows, even if you're only gone a few moments. When possible, lock all merchandise or packages in the trunk of your car. Do this before departing, not at your destination. Someone may be watching and waiting for you to leave your car.
- Shop with at least one partner. Have your car or house key in your hand

as you approach the door. If attacked, use those keys as weapons.
- Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you. Look inside your car and around it as you approach.
- Carry your purse under your arm and your wallet in an inside pocket. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.