

Southern Pines Police Department
Safety Tips
Shopping

As you shop, remember that this is also a time for thieves to take advantage of circumstances and seek opportunities to steal. Don't give them the chance! When shopping, keep your purse or wallet under your control and don't leave them unattended in a shopping cart. It only takes a second for a thief to walk away with your valuables while you are distracted by shopping. Thieves look for a time while a shopper is distracted to silently remove a purse and leave before the theft is noticed. If your purse has a zipper or other closure, keep it closed until you need to access it. Keep your wallet in a secure pocket or a place where it would be hard to get to by a thief. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Plan your shopping trips to buy the things you want in an organized manner as you keep at least one hand free to open doors, get your keys, etc. Purchasing a large item? Bring along a friend that can help. Be aware of your surroundings while shopping, returning to your car, waiting for the bus, etc. See something or someone suspicious? Seek out store/plaza/mall security or call 911. If shopping during the hours of darkness or if you will be returning to your car after sunset, park in a well lit area and remember where you parked. Many large parking lots have area identifiers on poles or other signs to help you locate your car again. If the area is desolate and no one is around, ask the store clerk or security personnel for an escort to your car. As always, remember to lock your car and don't leave anything in plain view that will entice a thief to break into the vehicle.

For more information or a presentation on this topic, contact the Community Services Coordinator at (910) 692-2732.