

Nine Smart Shopping Tips

Park close to your destination, in a well-lit area and lock packages in the trunk, out of sight.

Carry your purse close to your body and stow your wallet inside a zippered pocket. Report any suspicious activity or unattended packages to store/mall security or law enforcement.

Stay vigilant this holiday season. Be aware of your surroundings: "[If You See Some-](#)

Seven Home Safety Guides

Refresh your holiday lights; consider buying energy-efficient LED types that are cooler than conventional incandescent lights and heed indoor or outdoor use labels.

Point any decorative outdoor laser light devices at your home and not towards the sky.

Turn off lights or decorations before bedtime, or set automatic timers for six or eight-hour increments to conserve energy.

Monitor candles and fireplace fires, and extinguish them before leaving the house or bedtime. Consider installing motion or lighting sensors that turn off automatically when no one is around.

Let strangers who knock know you are home without opening your door. Do not feel compelled to donate to solicitors.

Ask a neighbor to collect your mail or have the post office hold it, if you plan to travel for an extended period.

Six Basic Fire Rules

Fires peak, particularly in kitchens, during the holidays, so remain alert when preparing meals and keep potholders and food wrappers at least three feet away from heat sources.

Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, ensuring that they work at optimal level year-round. Replace batteries, as needed.

Know where your exits are located and hold regular fire drills that include practicing at least two evacuation routes from every area or building to your safe refuge area.

Notify the property manager about exit lights that are broken or vandalized.

Never prop open self-closing doors, as they are designed to keep flames and smoke from spreading.

Keep exits and stairways free from obstructions at all times. Don't store things on or under

Five More Tips and Resources

Be sure to thank security professionals and others who help keep us safe and secure. Electrical Safety Foundation International's [Holiday Decorating Safety](#) guide lists many resources.

The National Safety Council recommends several [Holiday Safety Tips](#).

Be prepared for more thorough airport security checks by TSA and register for the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) before traveling abroad.

Consult the [Consumer Product Safety Commission website](#) for recalls and alerts on toys and other products before making purchases.

Please view CDC's [12 Ways to Health Holiday Song](#), and #BeSafe!

For more information, visit www.AUS.com/Tips