

The Palm Beach County Sheriffs Office and the National Crime Prevention Council reminds holiday shoppers to keep safety in mind as they do their holiday shopping



Shopping in Stores

- Do not buy more than you can carry. Plan ahead by taking a friend or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car.
- Save all receipts. Print and save all emails from your online purchases.
- Verify credit card or bank statements as they come in.
- Consider alternate options to pay for your merchandise, such as onetime or multi-use disposable credit cards or money orders, at online stores and auction sites.
- Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook.
- Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package. The same applies if you are using mass transit.

Walking to and From Your Car

- Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket.
- Have your keys ready when approaching your vehicle. Check the back seat and nearby cars before entering.
- Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the trunk or take them directly home.

Shopping Online

- Before surfing the Internet, secure your personal computers by updating your security software. All computers should have anti-virus, anti-spyware, and anti-spam software, as well as a firewall installed. Visit www.bytecrime.org for free software.
- Keep your personal information and password secure. Do not respond to requests to “verify” your password or credit card information unless you initiated the contact.
- Use secure websites for purchases. Look for the icon of a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen or “https” in the URL.
- Shop with companies you know and trust. Check for background information if you plan to buy from a new or unfamiliar company.
- Set you bank card or credit card to send you immediate alerts whenever a purchase or withdrawal is made.



SEE SOMETHING... SAY SOMETHING...



**PALM BEACH COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

RIC L. BRADSHAW, SHERIFF

For More Crime Prevention Tips go to: www.pbso.org/crimeprevention

