

12 *12 Holiday Tips for the Twelve Days of Christmas.*

Once again, it is time for Christmas shopping — some of the biggest shopping days of the year. And the bad guys know it. They salivate over women with kids and seniors loaded down with goodies and money in the mall parking lots. They are ripe and vulnerable targets.

1. **BE ALERT and BE AWARE!** This is the most important safety tip. Maintain confident body language so criminals pass you over for a “softer” target. Remember to focus on your surroundings.
2. **Try to Shop during daylight hours.** If you can't, then make sure you park in a well lit and well trafficked areas of the parking lots.
3. Remember: there is **safety in numbers.** Try to shop with other adult friends or family members. You can then each look out for one another.
4. **Keep shopping bags, purses and other valuables close to your body at all times.** DO NOT place your purse in the cart. This makes it easy for a bad guy to snatch it and run. It only takes a second! I try to tell ladies of all ages NOT to carry a purse. Credit and debit cards are safer than carrying cash. The only items you need are your driver's license, credit / debit card, health insurance card and cell phone. There are very few places that do not take credit / debit cards anymore.
5. **Have your keys in your free hand well before approaching the car.** It is better to have them out before you exit the store. This will save time when getting into the car. Keys can be used as an improvised weapon if necessary. Lock the door immediately after getting in.
6. **Return to your vehicle frequently to unload purchases and place them in the trunk.** If you have to put them in the passenger compartment, cover them on the floor with a blanket. Unloading your bags frequently reduces the amount you have to carry. Also, consider moving your car to another parking space closer to the store.





Downtown Hartsville CHRISTMAS PARADE!

Sat., Dec. 4th, starting at 10:30 a.m.

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Shopping safety cont'd...

7. **WATCH OUT FOR LOITERERS NEAR YOUR CAR;** especially when placing packages in your car. Always trust your instincts! If you feel something is not right and you don't feel comfortable walking to your car alone, you can ask a store employee to walk with you. Most stores do not mind doing this. They value your safety too. Watch out for overly friendly strangers. They may ask a question or offer to assist you with your bags to distract you or put you in a compromising situation. Make sure you only get help from a store employee or someone you know.
8. **Don't become distracted.** Supervise children at all times. If you feel you will be distracted from supervising them while shopping, make arrangements for a babysitter. Older children should take a friend with them when going shopping. Keep cell phone conversations to a minimum when walking to and from your car.
9. **Common sense usually prevails. Use your head.**
10. **If you get in trouble make as much noise as you can:** scream, use your alarm, use the panic button on your key fob — all to draw attention to your predicament. DO NOT go anywhere with the bad guys. Most of the time this does not end well! Give the bad guy only what they ask for, i.e.; money, purse, cell phone, gifts. Remember items can be replaced. Nothing is more important than you and your family.
11. **When shopping online, make sure you are dealing with a reputable online store.** Upon checkout, before entering your payment information, make sure the page is encrypted and secure. Keep your anti-virus, anti-phishing software up to date. Check the return policy before placing your order.
12. **After opening gifts, don't advertise to criminals** of your big ticket item with your trash. Tear down and cut up product boxes into small pieces to fit in garbage and recycling cans. If you cannot, make sure you personally take your trash to the recycling center.



ROLLCART PICK UP DATE CHANGES:

Roll Cart Pick Up Changes in
December 2010 due to Christmas
& New Year Holidays:

Please mark your calendars:

Thurs., Dec. 23rd pickup is
changed to Tues., Dec. 21st.

Fri., Dec. 24th pickup is changed
to Wed., Dec. 22nd.

Mon, Dec. 27th pickup is changed
to Tues., Dec. 28th;

Fri, Dec 31st pickup is changed to
Thurs., Dec. 30th.

NO RECYCLING PICKUP ON
ABOVE DATES



Yellow Bag Disposal Locations on Christmas Day only!

14th and Power Street
Carolina and First Street
Rogers Ave. & 5th Street
6th St. & Marion Ave.
"Pride Park"

Old Armory back parking lot

**PLEASE PLACE YELLOW
BAGS IN THE TRAILERS,
NOT ON THE GROUND.**

**WRAPPING PAPER IS
NOT RECYCLABLE, PLEASE
DISPOSE IN YELLOW BAGS.**

Questions? Call 383-3019.

**Christmas Tree
Lighting**
in Burry Park
6:00 p.m.
Tonight!
Fri., Dec. 3rd.

*Don't miss this Holiday
Kickoff Weekend in Hartsville
- truly a family event!*

GOOD LIVING MARKETPLACE

Saturday, Dec. 4th
9 am - 2 pm

Children's items
Baked goods
Artisan designs
Jewelry
Live animals
plus much, much more!

**YOUR ONE-STOP
HOLIDAY SHOPPING
EXPERIENCE!**