



Holiday Tips for Business Owners and Customers

In response to the recent rash of retail thefts, we have received a lot of questions about what one can do to be less likely become a victim of one of these crimes. Unfortunately, nothing is 100% guaranteed that you won't be victimized, but here are some pointers:

Business Owners

- Try not to place expensive display items too close to your doors
- Take note of people dressed inappropriately for the weather (Big jacket when its warm outside)
- When possible, have quality video surveillance in your store
- In the evening hours, increase your lighting in and around your business
- If you see something suspicious, call the police department. People often say after a crime was committed, "I thought something was going to happen but didn't call the police because I wasn't sure." Just call us when you are concerned.
- If you do see a person or people, stealing items, immediately call 911. Do not confront them yourself. Be a good witness. Take note of clothing, physical descriptors, vehicles, and direction of travel.

Customers

- Do not leave any packages or belongings in plain view in your car
- Try to park in an area with good lighting
- Do not take out large amounts of cash in public
- Try to maintain control of your purse and bags. Do not leave unattended in a shopping cart.
- If you see a theft occurring, call 911. Do not intervene. Be a good witness.

These are just a few tips to help you out as you shop this holiday season. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the San Rafael Police Department at 415-485-3000 or 911 if you have an emergency.