

Car Safety Tips

Safety Tips in a Car

Protecting Yourself in a Public Parking Garage or Parking Lot

- ❑ Select a safe time to shop
- ❑ If you must leave a key, leave only the vehicle ignition key
- ❑ Do not leave any identifying information with name, address, phone numbers in the car or on the keys
- ❑ Scan the area you are in for loitering or “suspicious-looking” people
- ❑ Be aware while you walk to and from your car and stores and while loading packages and children in your car
- ❑ Do not turn your back and attention completely away from those nearby
- ❑ Lack of attention leads to purse-snatching and strong-arm robbery
- ❑ Do not park next to a van with a sliding door
- ❑ Change from heel shoes to comfortable walking shoes when possible; this will allow you to walk quickly or run from a dangerous situation
- ❑ Don’t leave alone after dark
- ❑ Have keys ready when you approach your car
- ❑ Be observant and look around before getting into your vehicle
- ❑ Before you open your car door, observe the interior, especially the back
- ❑ Keep doors locked and windows closed

Safety Tips While Driving

- ❑ Be careful of anyone approaching your car while driving, such as a pedestrian or someone soliciting donations or passing out literature
- ❑ Avoid mace or similar products; they could be turned on you; use your police whistle to get attention and perhaps scare away an attacker
- ❑ When stopped at a traffic control device, leave space between yourself and car in front
- ❑ If struck behind in a crash, do not leave your vehicle. Notify police if you have a cell phone or let someone do it and remain in your vehicle
- ❑ If you believe you are being followed, drive to a well-lit area with lots of people

Winter Car Safety Tips

- ❑ Get your car ready for winter season; check condition and repair or replace as necessary: fluids, hoses, belts, battery, wiper blades, and tires. Lubricate locks and hinges, plugs and other ignition components
- ❑ Keep the following items in your car during the winter:
 - Blanket
 - High-energy food
 - Flashlight with extra batteries
 - First aid kit
 - Small hand tool kit
 - Extra change of clothes
 - A sack of sand or kitty litter
 - Shovel
 - Windshield scraper
 - Tow rope
 - Booster cables
 - Water container
 - Compass, road map
 - Red cloth to signal help