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**Killam / Forestburg RCMP offers shoppers a Grinch-free guide to holiday shopping.**

Killam / Forestburg, Alta. – The holiday season is a time for giving, but it can also attract opportunistic thieves. From vehicle break-ins to identity theft, shoppers are at risk of losing more than their gifts if they don't take precautions.

Killam / Forestburg RCMP urges shoppers to follow these simple safety measures to help ensure a joyful and secure holiday:

- Lock your car doors and close all windows, even if you are just running into a store for a few minutes.
- Store bags and gifts in the trunk or out of sight. Thieves often target vehicles with visible valuables.
- Park in well-lit, high-traffic areas whenever possible.
- Keep your purse zipped or use a crossbody bag to make it harder for thieves to grab.
- Use credit cards instead of debit cards or cash for better fraud protection.
- Avoid leaving bags in shopping carts unattended.
- Cover the keypad when entering your PIN at checkouts.
- Monitor your bank and credit card statements regularly for unauthorized transactions.
- Shred receipts with personal or credit card information before discarding them.
- Keep your head up and be aware of your surroundings. Avoid distractions, such as excessive phone use.
- If you're carrying multiple shopping bags, get your keys ready before heading to your car to avoid fumbling and to quickly secure your items.

Follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and on X @RCMPAlberta as we are #StockingUpOnSafety this holiday season.

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