



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Shopping locally makes for unique gift-giving and eliminates a lot of the hassles and risks of the holidays.

Keep security in mind during Christmas season

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There are many good reasons to shop local in Sisters during the holiday season. One of them is that it's safer than just about any other option.

If you shop online or in the big city, you're putting yourself at greater risk for theft. Identity thieves can steal your information online and old-fashioned thieves can steal from your car while you shop, or even steal a wallet or purse.

So if you must shop online or in the big city, it's important that you keep some basic security measures in mind.

- Always lock up. That goes for your home while you're out and about as well as your vehicle while shopping. Even if you're just running into a store, take the extra time to make sure your vehicle and its contents are secure.

- Keep packages and valuables out of sight in the trunk or out of view through a window.

- Deal only with reputable and secure websites for online shopping, and keep an eye on

your credit card activity. Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.

- If you're out at the mall or in the big town, stay aware of your surroundings, no matter how rushed you are or how many things are on your list.

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.

- Don't load up with packages. Make sure you can see and move comfortably.

- If you're leaving for the holidays, don't broadcast it over social media. It's not a good idea to let too many people know you aren't going to be home.

- Keep the lights on, the Christmas lights lit, and maybe leave the television on when you're out to deter anyone from entering your home. Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.

Of course, the best way to relax and enjoy a calm, safe and secure holiday is to do your shopping in your hometown, where you know everyone and we're all looking out for each other.

Ultimate Garage

The owners and staff at Ultimate Garage enjoy an outstanding reputation for installing high-quality floor coatings and garage cabinets. And, like most of you, our lives here in Sisters Country are active. We appreciate where we live, it's natural beauty, and enjoy all sorts of outdoor activities. But those activities often require equipment, and in Central Oregon our garages are housing more than cars and tools.

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