

Purse & Wallet Theft Prevention

-Carrying Valuables Safely-

- Handbags should be closed, carried in front of the body with an arm held loosely across it.
- If wearing a handbag with a strap over the head, choose a thin strap, and wear it under your coat.
- Many women find they don't need to carry a handbag all the time. Place essentials (keys, small amount of cash, I.D.) in a pocket.
- Since your address is usually on a card or document in your bag, avoid carrying your house keys in the same place.
- Make sure the clasp or zipper on your bag is closed, especially in crowds.
- If you *must* carry a large amount of cash or valuable items, do not carry them in your handbag or wallet.
- Carry valuables in an inside pocket.

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-Minimize What Can Be Lost-

- Carry only what you actually need.
- Carry only small amounts of cash.
- Carry only the credit cards you actually plan to use.
- Leave expensive jewelry at home.
- Try not to carry *anything* that is irreplaceable or of sentimental value.

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-What Thieves Look For-

- Items left in cars, grocery carts, dressing rooms or desks.
- Wallets and checkbooks that protrude from pockets.
- The noise and confusion of crowds to help conceal their crimes.
- Distraction: Pickpockets often work in teams; one might bump, shove, drop something, or ask you a question, while another steals wallets from pockets or handbags.