

# Be Cautious When Leaving the Store with Your New Gadgets



The officers of the Metropolitan Police Department would like to remind members of the public to be cautious when making electronic purchases, particularly on days of new releases of popular devices and gadgets. If you have plans to make a major purchase of a popular computer, tablet, or phone, please remember these important safety tips:

1. If an **online tracking system** is available for your device, get the extra assistance in the store for setup before exiting the store.
2. **Don't be distracted** as you exit local cell phone stores and other electronic specialty stores that sell these items. Be deliberate as you exit these stores, concealing your purchase(s) and focusing on getting to your next destination. Cell phones and other music devices are major distractions when in use.
3. **Report suspicious people.** *Inside a store:* Do you notice people who are paying more attention to the purchases being made, rather than checking out new products? *Outside a store:* Do you see suspicious people standing at or near the exit for no real purpose? Report these behaviors to police.
4. **Try to shop with a friend.** Most victims who report crimes that involve snatching new products are people who have shopped alone. If you have an elderly parent, please make preparations to accompany him or her to make these kinds of purchases or suggest ordering them online.
5. Never hesitate to **point out suspicious activity** or people to local officers or security guards. Remember the "See Something, Say Something" campaign and dial 9-1-1 if you need an officer dispatched to your location.