

Protect Your Electronic Gadgets from Theft and Provide Tips to Help Solve Crimes



THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

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.

HELP PUT AN END TO ELECTRONICS THEFTS. GET A REWARD.

The MPD currently offers a reward of **up to \$10,000** to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for any robbery committed in the District of Columbia. Information you provide — including information about a subject involved, knowledge of a fencing operation, illegal pawn sales, and other

activities related to robbery of electronic items — may be provided to the Metropolitan Police Department. If your information results in the arrest and conviction of those responsible, you may be eligible for a reward of up to \$10,000. You may also provide information anonymously through Crime Solvers and be eligible for a reward of **up to \$1,000**.

REWARD HOTLINE: (202) 727-9099

ANONYMOUS TEXT TIP: 50411

HELP STOP THEFTS OF ELECTRONIC GADGETS

MAKE THE RIGHT CALL. GOT A TIP?

GET A REWARD OF UP TO \$10,000



Thefts of smart phones, tablets, and other devices are on the rise nationally and here in the District of Columbia. The Metropolitan Police Department and Crime Solvers of Washington, DC are asking citizens to assist us in putting an end to the problem. There are two things you can do to help combat thefts of popular electronic gadgets:

① Reduce your chances of being a victim.

You can lower your risk of being a target by avoiding walking with your electronic gadgets exposed. Cell phones and other devices are a major distraction and can provide an easy opportunity for thieves to target you. Be deliberate and conceal your device while walking or using public transportation. Put away your GPS and other devices when leaving your vehicle.

② Tell police if you know something about crime.

We rely on good information from citizens to help solve crimes. If you are aware of a fencing operation related to thefts of electronics, know about illegal pawn sales, or have noticed suspicious behaviors on transit systems, on the street, at school, or elsewhere, report it to police.

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Get more safety tips at mpdc.dc.gov/safety.
Learn about the rewards program at mpdc.dc.gov/rewards.

