



CITY NEWS

YOUR OFFICIAL
SOURCE FROM
CITY HALL

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5 Ways to Stay Safe While Shopping During the Holidays



For many Americans, holiday shopping is practically a national pastime. Maybe you're an avid shopper who spends weeks creating an action plan or the type who procrastinates and makes a mad dash for last-minutes specials. Whatever your Black Friday shopping strategy is, staying safe is serious business.

From Black Friday on, whether you're online, at a crowded store or in the parking lot, you need to be more aware of your personal safety and financial security. If you're distracted or in a hurry, that's when incidents can occur. Take these precautions to help protect you, your family and financial information.

1. Make sure you can carry the load.

Consider all that you're buying and how you'll get it to your vehicle. If you buy more than you can carry, you become potentially more vulnerable by becoming fatigued, plus you make yourself more visible to potential thieves. Plan ahead and arrange for a friend or store employee to help you take packages to your car.

2. Be on the lookout for identity theft while you're online.

If you shop online, practice solid internet security and choose companies you know and trust. Check the background of any company you're not familiar with. And remember – if any deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is. While scam artists still run schemes in person or over the phone, they also work online to get you to click on a fake link or send your financial information to a bogus email address.

3. Keep your financial information away from wandering eyes.

Protect your credit card information, especially as you stand in line to pay. It's an easy way to prevent identity theft and credit card fraud. Crowded stores can be an easy place for someone to steal your information, just by looking over your shoulder.

4. Leave a paper trail — for your own reference.

Save all your receipts. Along with needing them for returns, it's also a good idea to confirm your purchases against your credit card or bank statement. Once identity thieves have your credit card info, they will make small purchases, or "pings" to see if the card is still active. You can help prevent further theft by consistently reviewing your statements for unusual or frequent purchases.

5. Have a plan to keep your children safe.

If you shop with children, rehearse what you will do in case you get separated. Make sure everyone understands where the central meeting place is and to ask mall personnel or store security employees if they need help.

BRIEFS

2023 Solid Waste Schedule

The 2023 Solid Waste Service Schedule includes eight holidays when no solid waste services are provided.

Holidays for 2023 are:

- New Year's Day (observed)
- Good Friday
- Juneteenth
- Independence Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve (observed)
- Christmas Day

For full Solid Waste schedule:

<https://www.alamoheightstx.gov/departments/public-works/solid-waste/>

Reminder: your water consumption during the winter months affects your residential sewer service fee for the next year. Residential sewer service fees are calculated based on the average water usage during three consecutive billing periods. This year your November, December and January consumption will be used for your winter averaging. For more information or questions, please call Utility Billing staff at 882-1507.

CITY CALENDAR

Monday, December 5
Planning and Zoning Meeting
5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 7
Board of Adjustment Meeting
5:30 p.m.

Monday, December 12
City Council Meeting
5:30 p.m.



Tuesday, December 20
Architectural Review Board
5:30 p.m.

Friday, December 23 and
Monday, December 26
Holidays—Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day (observed)
Offices Closed*

Monday, January 2
Holiday—New Year's Day
(observed)
Offices Closed*

*NO CONSTRUCTION WORK
ALLOWED ON OFFICIAL CITY
HOLIDAYS

*NO SOLID WASTE SERVICES



Be a Friendly Flusher



Put it in the Trash!

These items can clog pipes and cause blockages even if labeled "flushable". Dispose of them in the trash to prevent expensive plumbing repairs.



Wipes, paper towels, cleaning cloths

These items should never be flushed or sent down the drain. Yes, even "flushable" wipes will clog your pipes! Instead of breaking down, these items get caught on the sides of pipes and can cause clogged pipes. Never flush these items; always place them in the trash bin.



Feminine Hygiene

Pads and tampons are very absorbent and don't break down like toilet paper. They are common causes of household and public property clogs. Always place these items in the trash bin!



Personal Hygiene

Everyday personal hygiene products can combine and tangle with other non-flushables in the drain and clog pipes. Always place these items in the trash bin!



Dispose Responsibly!

These products can damage your pipes, our sewer systems, and negatively impact our lakes, rivers, and streams. Dispose of them properly to prevent serious harm.



Paints, Cleaning Products, Pesticides

These items should never be flushed or sent down the drain. These products have chemicals that are not treated in our wastewater treatment process. This means that the chemicals can enter and harm our waterways. Never flush these items; take leftover products to a hazardous waste collection center.



Medication

Medications contain chemicals that cannot be removed during the wastewater treatment process. Trace amounts of these chemicals can end up in our waterways. Never flush medication, take unused medications to a hazardous waste collection center.



Fats, Oils, and Grease

These ingredients harden in cool pipes and cause huge clogs and sewer backups. Instead of pouring these ingredients down the drain, pour used cooking oil into a container and place in the trash or bring it to the Lynchburg Wastewater Treatment Plant to be recycled into a biofuel!

ALAMO HEIGHTS
Rotary
Club



Annual Holiday Sparkle Contest

Help brighten up this holiday season by decorating your home!

Judging will take place December 15th-18th.

Yard Signs and a small prize will be awarded to 1st through 3rd place winners.
All single-family homes within the city limits of Alamo Heights are eligible,
no need to submit an application.

ALAMO HEIGHTS
Texas

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

911 for EMERGENCY
Fire/EMS (Non-Emergency): 210-824-1281
Police (Non-Emergency): 210-822-3321
Administration and Finance: 210-822-3331

Public Works: 210-882-1518
Water: 210-882-1507
Community Development: 210-826-0516
Court Clerk: 210-882-1501