

SHOPLIFTING TIPS

As a merchant, if you believe shoplifters are mostly “spur of the moment”, “untrained” people, here are some tips for shoplifters off the Internet.

1. If possible, you should always have some money on you when intending to shoplift, because if you've got none, it's rather hard to argue that to steal the item was a spontaneous decision. As a result, if you've got no money and are caught shoplifting you are more than likely to be charged for burglary as well as theft.
2. Buying something at the same time that you steal stuff doesn't necessarily ensure success. Approaching staff for items you are absolutely sure they don't have is just as good. Think of something that you know they don't have (i.e. a doona cover with a specific pattern on it or something equally obscure) and pretend that you are looking for this, so that you have an excuse for being there. If staff are ever suspicious of you or ask if they can help you, ask them if they've got the thing you are sure they don't have.

Never screw this up -- if you do you will have to buy the item or they may realize that you are there to steal.

3. It is always a good idea to carry a bag although you should never stash anything in it -- if security/sales staff are suss on you the first place that they'll check is your bag and it may just get

you off the hook if they can't find anything suspicious inside of it.

4. Remember that there is no such thing as a standard store detective -- there is no qualifying dress code, age, race, gender or class. Grandma will bust you this week and next week it'll be a 5 year old kid.
5. Just as there is no typical store detective nor is there a standard shoplifter. Security do not go looking for the poorly dressed people. They may pick on you out of boredom, but remember, only an unsuccessful store detective picks on poorly dressed people. By the same token don't believe the stale myth that suits + dresses = more successes; security anticipate that professional shoplifters will dress up a bit. Wear whatever you want.
6. Hold the item in your hand. Drop something (cell phone) on the ground. Pick it up using that hand and put both items into your bag.
7. With stores that ask how many items you bring in~ Hide multiple pieces of clothing in your pile. Make it sound believable. Most won't bother checking your pile anyways. Once inside dressing room, hide your desired items. Come out with appropriate amount of clothes. dump on the unwanted pile or place clothing back

on rack.

8. (*mostly for girls*) Have item desired in your hand or on the floor. Drop your purse's contents all over the floor. Quickly scramble to put back all items back into bag.
9. Take your bicycle with a friend (need pegs) to the store you want to steal from, and park your bike in front of a window that is visible from the registers. Tell your friend to hide. Then, politely ask an employee to watch your bike. They will most likely say yes, being kind. Go into the store, then get a basket, and fill it with the stuff you want to steal. After you have gotten what you want to steal (probably not more than 10 lbs) go to a register with a really long line. Call your friend on your cellphone, and tell him "its time". He will then get on the bike, and after hes on yell "THAT KID'S STEALING MY BIKE!" and run after him with your basket in hand. Most people will be too confused and shocked to chase you. Yes, the alarm will go off. Meet your friend at another store, the security guards from the store you stole from cant grab you off grounds, but they probably won't find you.
10. Lift perfume bottles from the stand, take it away as if you're smelling it and put it in your bag when you get away. Looks kinda stupid but you can play dumb and pretend you wanted to buy it at the cashier's.
11. Switcharoo~ At stores that count clothing when you go in/out, put on the item and put

your old clothing on the hanger. At first glance they may not notice.

12. If you thinking someone is watching you or following you around (and they suspect you) DUMP OUT MERCHANDISE. They cannot prosecute you until they see you pass the register without making an attempt to pay and leave the store. Doesn't matter if they see you if they already know what you're up to.

Quickly leave the store. If they attempt to search you, they would find nothing. Most stores are only interested in recovering lost merchandise.

Guards can stop you outside the store but not outside the property.

Try and get lost inside a crowd once outside.

13. Running a magnet over the metal strip a number of times will deactivate it.

14. Wear a thick sweatshirt that is fairly tight or fitted at the bottom. Zip this up halfway and walk around the store. Use this as a giant pocket, just insert the items into the gap between your shirt and your body.

15. If you're trying to grab some small items on a tray or near the rack, 'accidentally' knock it all over. As you're scrambling to pick it up (because you DID knock it over), quickly pocket some items by shoving it up your sleeve.

16. Work in pairs. One person acts as an interested customer. Person 2 grabs some small item.

Person 1 conveniently has open bag on arm or shoulder. P 2 slips stuff into their tote as they walk by.

17. A person alone pretends to browse the displays, and at the right moment, easily brushes items displayed near the table-edge right into an open bag, purse, or baggy pocket that's just below the table level.

18. A person sets a personal item on your table while pretending to shop. When the person picks up her personal item, she neatly lifts some of your jewelry along with it.

19. Use umbrellas to lift smaller things from shelves. Keep it closed but unsnapped.

20. Bags insulated with aluminum foil AKA Magic Bags block out the magnetic strip that causes the alarm to go off. To test your bag, place your cell phone in one and call it. If it doesn't ring you're good to go.

There are also several well done videos on You Tube showing how to remove security tags from clothing, including the tags that hold ink.

So, as you can see from these few examples, shoplifters are getting more sophisticated all the time and are spreading their knowledge

via the Internet.

Why do people shoplift?

For some it's a lark – an adrenalin rush

For some it's survival

For some it's an addiction

Whatever the reason, all business people must take shoplifting serious, even in small stores in small communities. No business is immune.

Find a way of training your staff to watch for shoplifters, even if it is only having them read this simple brochure.

Even if you just suspect someone of shoplifting, call the RCMP. At the minimum you will be sending a message shoplifters are not safe in our community.