

Employees Are Not Exempt

Some experts believe businesses lose more to employee theft than to burglary, robbery and shoplifting combined. Examine your management practices. Make your employees feel that they've got a stake in your business. Send a clear message to all employees that you will prosecute.

Embezzlement & Pilferage

Sometimes employees only take a few items, like office supplies, or they use company equipment, like cars or copying machines, for personal use. Sometimes employees will try enlisting the help of friends or relatives to commit property crimes. Some examples of employee theft are:

- Printing receipts for friends so that the suspect (friend) can enter the store, pick an item out and take it to the return line for a cash refund.
- Helping friends set up a robbery of the business, i.e. times, dates and information.

The Oxnard Police Department encourages you to be a partner in public safety as part of the **"Operation Safer & Stronger"** initiative. Anyone with information regarding criminal activity should contact the Oxnard Police Department at (805) 385-7740 or 9-1-1.



BUSINESS CRIME PREVENTION

SHOPLIFTING & INTERNAL THEFT PREVENTION

*Crime and Violence Prevention Center •
California Attorney General's Office*



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Put A Stop To Shoplifting!

Shoplifters assume they won't get caught. Your strategy is to prove them wrong. The following tips require thought and ingenuity, but cost very little.

- Alert employees are your best defense. Establish procedures for them to follow if they suspect shoplifting and make sure they are familiar with shoplifting laws.
- Make sure you can see everything that goes on in your store. Keep counters low, no more than waist-high. Mount mirrors in corners so there are no blind spots.
- Arrange counters and display tables so there's no direct route to the exit. Some stores put turnstiles at entrances so the only way out is to pass the checkout counters. Place expensive items in the center of the store away from exits.



- Arrange displays so that missing items are easily noticed. Place small items in neat rows or clearly defined patterns. Attach inventory alarm tags to expensive merchandise. Reverse alternate hangers of hanging garments to prevent "grab and runs."
- Announce and observe a zero tolerance policy to prosecute shoplifters. The threat of being caught, questioned by police, put on trial and maybe even put in jail may be enough to discourage shoplifters.

What Shoplifters Use

Shoplifters use the following to conceal items:

- Bulky clothing: coats, pants and maternity outfits.
- Packages, bags, backpacks and purses are hiding places, and sometimes they may have false bottoms.
- Special props include hollowed-out books, fake casts, umbrellas, secret pockets, belts or hooks under coats.
- Folded newspapers or magazines are used to hide small or flat items.

What to Look For

- Be aware of customers' hands — and their pockets, purses, handkerchiefs.
- Notice open packages, purses, shopping bags and backpacks.
- Watch for customers who are nervous, have wandering eyes, are loitering or lingering in hidden areas.
- Watch groups of people, especially if a person tries to distract you.