



Decatur Police Department

What is retail theft:

Shoplifting is a crime and occurs when someone steals merchandise offered for sale in a retail store. To commit shoplifting one must "intend" to permanently deprive the merchant of the value of the merchandise. Shoplifting most often occurs by concealing merchandise in a purse, pocket, or bag, but can occur by a variety of different methods.

Retail theft prevention tips:

- *Acknowledge customers who enter the store or department area where the employee is assigned to work. Making eye contact with a potential shoplifter shows the person that you are aware of their presence and can identify their face.
- *Provide personal customer service to as many customers as you can. Don't hound customers but walk through the store periodically greeting people in a friendly manner.
- *Pay close attention to customers whom you don't know, people carrying large bags and people with strollers or baby carriages.
- *Put items that are easy to shoplift close to the checkout counter. Also, lower displays around the checkout counter which block the cashier's view of the selling floor.
- *Use packaging that is hard conceal.
- *Consider using electronic tags with a sensing device at the door.
- *Install added security measures in "blind spots" around your store (ex. bright lighting, security mirrors and cameras).
- *Post signs stating your policy of prosecuting shoplifters.

If you observe someone shoplifting:

Do not try to apprehend the shoplifter because it places you at risk. Instead, call the police. Try to get the best detailed information about the shoplifter as possible (ex. race, age, clothing description, vehicle description and direction of travel from the store).