



THE ART OF
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SHOPLIFTING

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The Art of Shoplifting

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The Art of Shoplifting

Introduction

Shoplifting can truly be a form of art when done correctly. Unfortunately, there are too many places where the information and tips you will read about are just terrible. These websites and blogs are filled with bad advice and misleading information. I have written this guide to provide a simple, easy-to-understand way to shoplift, while still being safe. The methods described here are meant to be a guide, not a rule. Each individual situation may present a way to conceal, exit, or hide your identity better than this guide may teach you.

The goal is to give you a base understanding of tried and true methods, loss prevention policies and behaviors, and technical information. Although I have attempted to focus on the easiest and safest advice mainly targeted toward beginners, there is enough information here to help some experienced lifters.

I suggest reading this guide all the way through despite your experience level. You may find a small bit of new information that you had never thought of. However, despite everything you read in this guide, or anywhere else, I suggest that you always trust your own gut and lift in a way that makes you the most comfortable.

CHAPTER ONE

Before You Start Shoplifting

You will get caught. But even if you find yourself at the end of a long shoplifting career and you never have, for now, you should still assume you will.

Once you understand that, the next step is to determine if being arrested for shoplifting is something that will ruin your life, cost you your job, or even just cause personal embarrassment that you would be unable to handle. If so, you should probably stop now and give up the idea of shoplifting anything more than a pack of gum. Shoplifting should not be something taken lightly, no pun intended. If you are caught multiple times or caught with a shoplifting tool, or even just too much stuff, you could be charged and convicted of a felony. This conviction will drastically alter your life from your ability to vote or get a decent job. With that said, if you are still reading...

The Different Types of Shoplifters

The first thing is to determine what kind of lifter you are. If you have never shoplifted before, you don't want to lift a few small things, think that lifting is easy, and then jump right into trying to lift electronics you can sell. Shoplifting is an art form or a craft that you polish and hone as you go along. Lifting candy bars at the local gas station is not as easy as lifting a computer at an electronics store. Take your time and learn how to master lifting easier things. Once you feel comfortable with smaller things, you can work your way to larger or more expensive things. You will discover along the way that you probably weren't as good in the beginning as you thought.

There are many different reasons for shoplifting and just as many types of people, but most shoplifters fall into one of four categories:

Personal Needs Lifter

This lifter shoplifts items like small groceries, personal care, snacks, etc. This type of lifter is very low risk and, if careful, can go their entire life without getting caught.

Little Luxuries Lifter

This lifter shoplifts things they need, but also nicer things here and there, like sunglasses, jewelry, electronics, clothing, etc. This type of lifter is a higher risk, but

with the proper risk management plan, they may get away with this lifestyle for quite a while without getting caught.

Side Money Hustler

This lifter shoplifts and sells merchandise to make a profit on the side while still maintaining a regular job or lifestyle. The risk for this type of lifter can vary widely. Lifting more often and lifting merchandise that will sell well and with a higher profit margin (high theft items) significantly increases the risk of being caught.

Professional Booster

The professional shoplifts in bulk full time and sells to make a living. Being a career criminal is extremely risky and should only be undertaken by someone who has nothing to lose. A professional booster will be shoplifting felony amounts most of the time and will likely draw the attention of professional organized retail crime (ORC) investigators who are solely dedicated to catching them.

Do Your Research

Knowing as much as you can about shoplifting, loss prevention, specific store policies, how security tags work, and the shoplifting tools you use will only help you avoid being caught. You should read as much as you can on these topics, however, you should be cautious about anything you read. Many shoplifters who post on the shoplifting internet forums and blogs are young and inexperienced but will talk as though they are certain about what they are saying. It is important to always be wary of anyone who gives you advice that comes off as an absolute certainty. No situation, store, LP, or experience is ever going to be exactly the same. For example, there are several forums on the internet where people make "master lists" of stores that are easiest to lift from or which products have source tags in them; don't blindly believe these. Some companies are always easy and some are always difficult to lift from, but there are only a handful of stores that can be classified this way and even then there is some variation among those.

The point I'm trying to really impress upon you is that you shouldn't believe any one person, but look for a consensus on something, and then do your own real life research before accepting it as true. But even then you should be aware that in this cat-and-mouse game of shoplifters and loss prevention, things change all the time. Even this guide will even need to be updated every now and then. What was true yesterday may not be the case today or tomorrow.

Your Appearance

It is important to make sure you don't do anything to draw any more attention to yourself than absolutely necessary. The way in which you appear when walking into a store can make an immense difference in whether or not you become an immediate suspect.

Although, as any seasoned loss prevention employee will tell you, anyone can and does shoplift. Whether they are young or old, rich or poor, well-dressed or trashy, people are people and some of those people will steal. But there are certain things that can draw the attention of loss prevention employees that you can prevent. Here are a few things you can do to reduce the chance of becoming suspect #1 as soon as you walk in the door:

- Don't a bag, a backpack, or a purse any larger than necessary.
- Don't wear clothing that stands out from the average shopper in that store.
- Don't wear jackets or hoodies in warm weather.
- Dress nice, but casual. Don't look homeless, but no suit and tie either.
- Avoid bright clothing or all black clothing.
- Don't look directly at the cameras at the entrance.

The main objective is to act and dress in such a way that you would be as forgettable as possible. It is always better that people don't notice or remember you, that is your goal. This includes things that seem counterintuitive like being overly friendly with employees or walking around the store too casually. Most customers in a retail store are generally focused on getting the item(s) they came for and leave. They will flash a quick smile if they catch someone's eye, but will mostly have an apathetic attitude when they believe they are alone and unwatched.

CHAPTER TWO

Risk Management

This could very well be the most important part of this entire guide. Proper risk management is the difference between a shoplifter sitting at home and a shoplifter sitting in jail. The most important part of shoplifting is self-control. Too many people get caught up in the moment and miss something that was crucial because they weren't thinking clearly, or they get too greedy and go for more than they planned. This almost never ends well. Managing risks is boring and shoplifting in this method isn't about the thrill that most lifters get when they get away.

Risk management involves identifying risks, evaluating risks, and managing those risks. It is all about understanding what could go wrong before it does and having a plan ready. You should have a good understanding of a store's loss prevention program before you ever step foot into the building. Research whether this company employs active LP, do a google news search by searching the city and the term shoplifter to see if that store comes up as working to identify shoplifters, check Google for the store to see when their busiest times are, and do a walk-through of the store once a week or two before to casually shop and get a feel for the store and the overall security (this is called "casing". All of this will give you a much higher chance of getting away because you will have been able to identify risks, evaluate them, and make a useful plan on how to avoid those risks.

These tips that I'm offering are not to be taken as hard rules, but more as guidelines I've developed over several years of lifting. Use this guide, but always judge every situation for yourself. The goal for every lifter should be to get home safe, even if you end the day empty-handed. Remember, if something doesn't feel right or if something unexpected happens, don't ever feel a need to get something today that will be there tomorrow.

Trust Your Gut

If you feel like something is wrong, trust your own intuition. If something feels wrong or even just a bit off-putting, then it would be better to walk away than to ignore that feeling and regret it if you get caught. There is no worse feeling than knowing that if you had just listened to your instincts, you wouldn't be sitting in handcuffs.

Don't Get Greedy

Trying to get too much or going back to the same store too often is a great way to get caught quickly. If you have been lifting successfully and everything feels like it is going great, it is easy to get greedy and to try to get away with more each time.

You start feeling less nervous, less paranoid, and you try to get too much. Take what you can safely and enjoy successful shoplifting trips for a long time.

Don't Be Cocky

It doesn't matter how good you are at shoplifting, luck will always play a part in not getting caught. You could follow all of the advice in this guide and pull off a perfectly planned shoplifting trip, but still get unlucky. What if the LP on duty has a gut feeling you shoplifted and decides to stop you even though he doesn't have any proof? You'd still be caught and it wouldn't matter to the police if the LP just got lucky, you'd still be charged for the crime. Wildcard LP who play fast and loose with the rules do exist and they will catch you if you get cocky.

Stick to the Plan

Make a plan and stick to it. If you go into a store and try to wing it, you will be at a much higher risk of being caught. A plan can be as simple as knowing what you are going to lift, how you are going to exit, and what you are going to do if you are confronted. The planning phase is where the research comes in handy. Having that plan in mind can calm your nerves and keep you from making a mistake if something goes wrong.

Don't Get Caught

Now while this seems like something out of your control, for the most part, it really isn't 100% out of your control. Most of the time when someone gets caught it's because of a mistake they made. Be it carelessness, complacency, or any of the other reasons I listed above, getting caught is usually the result of a lifter not paying as close attention as they should have been.

Don't Trust Anyone Who Knows

That customer who saw you pocket that item may seem like they were cool and just turned a blind eye to you, but too many times they will head straight to an employee to tell them what they saw. Your friends, your family, anyone can rat you out. Lifting with a partner you don't fully trust in every way is also dangerous. They could get caught and rat you out intentionally or accidentally. They could do something stupid that gets the both of you caught. Your best and safest option is to keep your shoplifting a secret that no one knows about.

If you discuss it online, you should make sure no one will have access to your phone or computer and could see what you've been discussing. You should also always make sure to remain as anonymous online as possible. Don't give away any identifying information about yourself.

CHAPTER THREE

Common Shoplifting and Return-Fraud Methods

Fitting Room Concealment

Concealing in a fitting room of a department store is simple and relatively safe in most stores if done properly. It is best done with clothing because that is a natural thing to bring into a fitting room. Bringing other merchandise like jewelry or electronics is dangerous because if seen, you will be watched with more scrutiny.

Choose only a few items, 4-5 items is enough. If you take too many you'll be seen as suspicious, but too few and it's easy to see what's missing when you come out. When you are in the fitting room, remove any tags and put the clothes on under your clothes or in your purse if you have one. Leave 2-3 items so that you can take them back out with you and hang on a rack. Always hold onto 1 item as you make your way to the exit to look like you have chosen something to purchase, but then leave it just before getting to the point of sale/register and walk out. If LP was watching, it would appear that you tried them on, didn't like a few and were going to purchase one. By the time you drop the last one and walk out, it is too late for them to stop you unless they have searched the dressing room and counted the items you put back. If done quickly enough, you should make it out safely every time.

Concealing in a Blind Spot

The most common shoplifting technique is simply putting the merchandise (concealing) in your pocket, your bag, or under your clothing in a place where there are no cameras or mirrors (a blind spot). The only things to worry about with this technique are to make sure no one sees you and that the merchandise is properly concealed so that it isn't visible under your clothing or in your bag. After you have done this, you should head for the exit as soon as possible. Don't wait around and pretend to shop.

Left Handing

This method involves shoplifting while leaving yourself open to the defense that it was just an honest mistake. Left Handing gets its name because you will pay for the item in your right hand while holding the other item unconcealed where the cashier can see it in your left hand. If caught, you can say it was a mistake caused

by absent-mindedness. In other words, you meant to pay for it, you just forgot you were holding it. This makes it hard for the store to show you intended to steal. If caught, it's a viable defense to say you had no criminal intent.

Double Dipping

Double dipping is purchasing an item and bringing it to your vehicle, then returning to the store with the receipt, picking up the same item as before and leaving with it again. If anyone says anything to you, you can show them the receipt for that item. This works best in larger mall department stores where there are multiple points of sale and multiple exits but also can work for a big box store as well if you can successfully navigate through the checkout without being suspicious.

Box Stuffing

This can be an extremely safe method if you are willing to take your time and do a little prep-work. You will need to case the store beforehand and identify a product that is in a box and has some storage space inside that you can stash other merchandise. A good example of this would be a toilet or bathtub at a big box home improvement store.

Find the box and open the bottom of the box or on a side away from the barcode. Then go and select the items you want to conceal and stash them inside the box. Mark the box in a way that you will be able to identify it later. A brightly colored sharpie is a good way to draw a small shape on the box, but a small sticker of some sort would also work. Place the item back on the shelf, preferably behind another identical item.

The following day you can come back and purchase that box. If the cashier checks the box and notices the merchandise, you can say you weren't aware it was there, remove it, and then purchase the item (returning it later, of course). This allows you to have plausible deniability and not burn that store. Once you have left the store, empty the box and return the item with your receipt.

Shoe Swap

Many stores now have shoes stocked on the shelf so that the customer can find their own size and try them on without needing an employee to assist them. This makes shoe swaps pretty simple. Just walk in and select the shoes you want. Put

them on and put your old shoes in the shoebox and place it back on the shelf. Then you simply walk out in the new shoes.

Tip: Don't wear dirty, gross shoes into the store because it might be noticed that your shoes are suddenly brand new if an employee were to notice. I will often purchase a cheap pair of shoes at Wal-Mart that are similar in color to what I want and swap those. It costs me around \$10, but that's worth it when I am swapping them for \$120 shoes.

Grab and Run

This is exactly what it sounds like. You walk in, grab the merchandise and run out of the store as quickly as possible. A Youtuber made this method even more famous by doing this while recording himself and posting the videos online. This is extremely risky because employees may follow you out and chase you, customers may try to stop you if you're running, or if there is any kind of security or even a police officer nearby, it will be obvious to them what just happened and they may give chase. This should only be done as a last resort. You may also expect your picture to end up on Crimestoppers or the local police/news social media pages.

Push-Out

The push-out is a common method that has varying degrees of success. It has a little risk to it, but can be done successfully if properly executed. Start by placing the items you want into your shopping cart and simply push it out of the store. This works better in areas where it is common to have shoppers using reusable bags. This allows you to fill the bags as you shop and makes it much easier when you need to unload the items into your vehicle. Picking up a few bags is much easier than trying to load a shopping cart full of items into your vehicle.

Walk-Out

Surprisingly, this method is by far the easiest because it is literally done by just selecting your items and walking out with them in your hands. People and employees will often not notice or suspect you of stealing if you don't appear to be trying to conceal anything or making a rush for the door. The key to this is to only get one or two things and walk out with them with the confidence that you would if you had already paid for them. Imagine they are your items already and treat your walk out that way. Confidence is the key here.

Fitting Room Swap

This is a method used when a store has a fitting room attendant who counts clothes before allowing you in. Find similar items to what you want to lift that you can leave behind. I like to get them at Goodwill so that I only have to spend a few dollars. Wear those items under your normal clothes or put them in a purse. Go to the store and select the items you want and a few other items and go to the dressing room. Swap the Goodwill clothes you are wearing with the clothes on the hangers. Now when you walk out you have the same amount of items on hangers and you're wearing the same amount of clothing as when you walked in. Leave the Goodwill clothes on the hangers and put them in a clearance rack or somewhere they won't be found right away.

Source Tag Deactivation

This method is used for items that you believe may be source tagged and you are unable to remove it or deactivate it before concealing. Select the item and mark the item with an identifying mark or sticker somewhere that you will be able to find. Bring the item to the checkout and let them ring it up and deactivate the source tag. Then just tell them you forgot your wallet and you'll have to go home to get it. Usually, by the end of the day or next morning, that item will be back on the shelf. You can find your marked item and walk out knowing the source-tag was deactivated already.

Off-The-Shelf Return

This one is simple in most department stores where there are multiple POS systems around the store. Purchase an item and keep the receipt. Go in later and pick up that same item off the shelf or rack and bring it to the return counter with your receipt and get your money back. It's that simple.

CHAPTER FOUR

Loss Prevention

What Is Loss Prevention?

Loss prevention is a set of practices and policies that help protect the profitability of the company by reducing shrink. Loss prevention departments do this by handling several responsibilities including internal and external theft, store safety, store physical security, risk management, and inventory audits. The individual responsibilities can vary by specific job positions and by company. This guide will be focused mainly on their ability to detect and prevent external theft.

Every company has different policies, procedures, and approaches to loss prevention. Typically these approaches fall into four categories:

- No dedicated loss prevention department. Store management handles these responsibilities.
- District or Regional loss prevention departments that are responsible for multiple store loss prevention policies.
- In-store loss prevention department in higher shrink stores only.
- In-Store loss prevention department in all store locations.

What Do Loss Prevention Employees Look Like?

There is no common look among loss prevention, so spotting them by appearance can be difficult in some cases. Some LP employees are in uniform, some are plainclothes (undercover) and do what they can to look like your average shopper. The best way to determine if someone is LP is to watch their behavior. Plainclothes LP will usually have some behavior that can help give them away. Some of these include:

- Pretending to shop while watching people and not really paying attention to the merchandise. Look for bad actors.
- Hiding or ducking behind aisles, end caps, displays, and clothing racks.
- May have a walkie-talkie radio clipped on them slightly hidden from view.
- Appears to be shopping in the same aisle as you regardless of where you go.
- Watch for anyone not in uniform casually talking to employees as though they work there also.

If you are paying attention, you can usually see if someone is following you. If you suspect someone is following you, how you handle it can vary depending on the situation. I would suggest you do whatever is necessary to appear unaware while also making it a point to leave the store as soon as possible.

If you already concealed merchandise, I would use a fitting room or bathroom to leave the merchandise before exiting so that if they had all of their steps, they must now start over and you are free to leave without getting caught.

If you choose to leave with the merchandise, there is a chance you may be stopped and apprehended so make sure you understand the policies of that store and what they allow their LP to do when apprehending a suspect.

What Can Loss Prevention Do?

Loss Prevention employees are limited in what they can do by both laws and company policies. The law that is important, and sometimes not correctly understood, is known commonly as Shopkeeper's Privilege. This is not statutory law, but common law. The difference being that it is not codified but rather based on legal precedence. However, many states have adopted merchant laws which explicitly codified statutes that protect a merchant's right to detain and investigate a theft in their store. Laws can vary by state and you should always do your research into what your state laws are concerning shoplifting. Because laws vary from state-to-state and can be updated all the time, I won't go into any great detail into that in this guide.

With that said, the law is clear that a store may physically detain you while they investigate the suspected theft. Of course some stores, in an effort to reduce liability, may restrict who can make an apprehension and/or what kind of force they are allowed to use. It is important to know as much about these policies as possible before lifting at a store. The reason for that is because trying to get away from LP at Macy's Department Store may end with you being held down and handcuffed by the loss prevention team, while at Wal-Mart the LP are not supposed to physically stop you by anything more than a respectful hand on your arm or shoulder. Knowing this can make a huge difference in planning your escape beforehand or in the heat of the moment.

What Will They Do If They Suspect You Of Shoplifting?

The answer to this question varies from store-to-store. Each company has their own policy regarding this matter, but companies with a loss prevention department who allow their employees to apprehend a suspect follow these 4 steps:

- 1.) Observe the suspect selecting merchandise.
- 2.) Observe the suspect concealing merchandise
- 3.) Maintain sufficient observation to determine that the suspect still has the merchandise.
- 4.) Observe the suspect passing the last point of sale.

Some companies also include "Observe suspect entering store or area" and/or "Observe suspect attempting to exit."

So what does this mean to you and why is it important? First, knowing that they must have those steps gives you some breathing room because they have rules to follow and this makes their behavior a little more predictable. For example, after concealing merchandise, you can stop and go inside the bathroom or fitting room and know that they no longer have maintained observation and they cannot be sure you have the merchandise on you. If they want to stop you they have two choices, they can continue following you and hope to get their steps again or they can have a second LP check the bathroom or fitting room for the merchandise. This is allowed by some companies, but not all, so make sure you do some research. If they choose to search the bathroom or fitting rooms and don't find their merchandise, they know that you did not dump it and still have it on you. Some LP will even follow you into a bathroom and wait to hear if you are trying to remove packages or dispose of merchandise, they aren't supposed to do this, but it's not uncommon.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Thinking that LP doesn't or couldn't have all of their steps does NOT mean they will not stop you. Some LP will act with reckless abandon in regards to their job and are willing to gamble that you have the merchandise and they will stop you anyway. If they are right, they will lie about having their steps and you will be apprehended anyway.

If the LP employee doesn't have their steps and are following policy, they have two more options, they can make themselves known and make it obvious to you that they are watching you or they can go back to their office and cry about it. Don't count on the latter. If LP is making themselves obvious by standing near you, making eye contact, or having multiple employees ask you if you need help with anything, just leave. There is no reason to stay. There is nothing more you can do in that store. Trying to act innocent or buying something will not make them less suspicious, at this point they know what you're doing, they just can't prove it.

A Bad Stop

A bad stop is when a loss prevention employee stops and apprehends a suspect but then realizes that they don't have the merchandise they suspected them of stealing. This is very bad for them. It can result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. If you have been stopped and did not shoplift, conceal, open a package, or remove a security tag (in other words, you're completely innocent), then you should do the following:

- Do not answer any questions.
- Do not consent to or volunteer a search of your person or belongings.
- Do not resist or fight back.
- Do not scream or act belligerent.
- Remain calm.
- Demand that they let you go or call the police.

The best-case scenario is that they call the police. Once the police arrive, explain that you did nothing wrong, you have been detained against your will and would like their badge numbers and a report number. The reason for all of this is because you are going to be able to contact the corporate office and explain that you were falsely accused of theft and detained and you would like for them to do something to make this right. Normally you will be offered compensation in the form of a gift card.

If you have been stopped and did not shoplift anything, but at some point you did conceal, open a package, or attempt to remove a security device (in other words, you didn't steal, but you did try), then you should follow all of the previous advice, except do NOT demand they call the police. You will most likely be let go without any further issues, but if the police are called they could still charge you with vandalism (opening merchandise) or a number of other state-specific laws that you may have broken. Your best bet is to just try to leave without any further incident.

CHAPTER FIVE

You've Been Caught, Now What?

You can see the exit doors in front of you and you have just completed another successful lift, or so you thought. Suddenly a person steps out in front of you and someone behind you says something about loss prevention. You try to get away by trying to run, but the next thing you know you are being physically restrained and led back into the store. You've been caught, now what?

The next part of the guide deals with what will usually occur if you get caught. Every company and police department will handle things slightly differently, but the basics described here are pretty standard.

Misdemeanor Shoplifting

Don't Say a Word. Not. One. Word. At this point, you might be inclined to try and say something as you are walking with them. There is nothing to say. If you've been apprehended it's because they know what you did. Playing dumb won't do any good. Just keep quiet and don't speak.

They will continue leading you to the LP office where you will be seated. If you put up a fight you might be handcuffed to the bench. The LP employee will probably ask you a few questions. Just tell them you'd rather not speak to them about this.

If they ask you to return the merchandise you stole you should take everything out of your pockets and bag (except for any lifting tools you may have on you) and nicely state "Everything here belongs to me." That's it. They will then ask you for identification, you should give it to them. The reason you should comply with these two requests is that there is a chance they may just take their merchandise back and issue you a trespass warning (a ban from their store). But if you refuse to give them their merchandise back and/or refuse to give ID, they will call the police every time. The only chance you have to get away without the police being called is if you comply with those two requests. You should always be respectful and politely decline to answer any other questions. Being hostile toward the LP will only increase your chances of having the police called.

If the police are not called, you will be asked to sign a trespass warning and be released.

If the police are called, you will most likely be arrested, which means you will be handcuffed, searched for weapons, and then issued a court date. After that, you will be released and may leave. In some instances, the police may bring you to the police station to process you, if that's the case, things might proceed differently.

Felony Shoplifting

What classifies as a felony varies widely from state-to-state, as such, you would be wise to study your own state's laws on this topic. Things that can change a simple misdemeanor into a felony can be the value of the merchandise, whether tools were used, if fraud was involved, if you had a weapon on you, or if you used any sort of violence or threats of violence against the LP or other employees.

A good example of the differences between states would be New Jersey and Texas. In New Jersey, the threshold for felony theft is \$200. In Texas, the threshold is \$2,500. This is why it's important to know the laws where you will be lifting.

In most states, you can be charged with a felony for having any type of tool or booster bag. This includes using a magnet, so always be careful. You may not be charged with a felony at the time of arrest, but once the District Attorney sees you had tools on you, they may up the charge to felony burglary. But regardless, if you think you might be charged with a misdemeanor or felony, always call a lawyer, especially if it is your first arrest.

Civil Restitution

If you were caught and apprehended by LP and it wasn't a bad stop, most states allow for what is known as civil restitution. This is the legal right of the company to sue you for any monetary losses they may have suffered by your theft or attempted theft. This can include the cost of the merchandise and other associated costs including the time and effort made by their Loss Prevention department in apprehending you.

Most larger companies will outsource the collection of civil restitution to a third party. This is normally a law firm that specializes in this type of legal proceeding. These companies will send a civil demand letter on behalf of the store demanding you pay them a fee usually between \$100-\$750. Do not let them scare you. Civil Demand letters are not a legal debt and it cannot be reported as one to credit bureaus. In order for this to go against your credit, they would have to sue you and win a legal judgment against you in court.

The store almost certainly won't sue you, even though they claim they will. Yes, the words are threatening. While it is theoretically possible for them to sue you in civil court for attorney fees and costs against you, practically speaking that almost never happens. Some retailers, like Lord & Taylor, have explicitly said in legal depositions that their internal policy is never to follow up in civil court. They are literally just trying to get you to pay them money without a fight.

It could make it more likely that you face a criminal conviction. If your case isn't settled yet, prosecutors could decide to use the fact that you paid off the store you are accused of stealing from if they found out. Paying the civil recovery voluntarily isn't exactly like confessing, but it could be interpreted that way if it gets to court. Deciding whether to pay it is entirely up to you, but if you aren't sure what to do, contact a lawyer.

CHAPTER SIX

EAS Security Tags

There are several different types of security tags, mainly using 2 different types of technology. Many of these variations overlap and may include many of the different styles together.

Technology

Acousto-Magnetic (AM Tags) are created by using 3 pieces of thin metal, roughly 25 microns thick (paper-thin). One of these pieces of metal is magnetized and fixed in place, while the other two pieces are free-floating about it. All of this metal is encased in a thin and narrow piece of plastic. When these tags pass between the Alarm Towers the free-floating strips of metal act as similar to a tuning fork and begin to resonate at a frequency of 58kHz. When the towers sense this frequency, it triggers the visual and/or audible alarms on the towers. The tags can be deactivated by simply demagnetizing them using a demagnetizer. They can also pass through the alarm towers undetected by placing a neodymium magnet on top of it as you pass through. The magnet will stop the strips from resonating.

Radio-Frequency (RF tags) are an electric circuit that has an inductor and capacitor. This circuit is essentially an electric analog tuning fork. When these tags pass between the Alarm Towers, the circuit capacitors begin to resonate at 8.2mHz. When the tower senses this frequency, it triggers the visual and/or audible alarms on the towers. Some tags may also have built-in alarms that are triggered by this as well, causing the tag itself to audibly alarm. These tags can be deactivated by physically destroying the circuit. They can also pass through the alarm towers undetected by placing them inside a faraday cage, also known as a booster bag in this usage.

Tag Designs

Benefit Denial (Ink Tags)

These tags are designed to destroy the merchandise by staining them when the tags are tampered with or improperly removed. When the pin is twisted or forced out of the clutch, it will crack the vials of ink inside causing it to leak all over the merchandise.

Visual Deterrent

As the name implies, these tags don't have ink or set off the alarm towers, but instead, they fool customers into believing they will do all of the above. These can look like standard EAS tags but lack the circuit to set off the alarms, or they may be fully functional tags, but the store does not have working alarm towers.

Soft Tags

Soft tags are designed to be deactivated by the cashier when merchandise is purchased. The tag will be left on the merchandise to be thrown away by the customer. These often come in the form of stickers or labels.

Hard Tags

Hard tags are designed to be removed by the cashier when the merchandise is purchased. The tag can be reused by the store later.

Source Tags

These are soft tags that are placed inside the merchandise packaging by the manufacturer rather than the retailer. They are often hidden inside behind or near the UPC Barcode to make deactivation easier for the cashier while scanning the merchandise.

2-Alarm / 3-Alarm

This tag emits an audible alarm from a built-in speaker in the tag itself under certain conditions:

- 2-Alarm tags activate the alarm towers and internal alarm when passing through the towers.
- 3-Alarm tags activate the alarm towers and internal alarm when passing through the towers, and also activate the internal alarm when the tag is tampered with.

Spider Wraps

This type of EAS tag is a hard tag with wires used to wrap around the four sides of a product's packaging. In addition to setting off the alarm towers, this tag will emit an audible alarm (around 95db) when the wires are pulled too hard or if they are cut.

Keeper Boxes

These are hard acrylic cases with a lid that requires a special tool (S3 Handkey) to open it. Inside the lid is a hard EAS tag that will set off the alarm tower.

Bottle Locks

These EAS hard tags fit directly over the top of the wine and other alcohol bottles. They require a special tool to remove them. They will set off the alarm towers.

Cable Locks (Lanyard Tags)

These are the same as other EAS hard tags except they are attached with a lanyard cable. They are most commonly found as 2-Alarm or 3-Alarm tags that have a built-in alarm that is activated when they are tampered with. They also emit a loud chirp when the tag is legitimately removed to alert employees when a tag is removed.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Shoplifting Tools

The Alpha S3 Handkey is used on nearly all security devices manufactured by Alpha High Theft Solutions by Checkpoint. It will remove the most common spider wraps, bottle locks, and keeper boxes.

Neodymium Magnets are rare-earth, permanent magnets are made from an alloy of Neodymium, Iron, and Boron. Neo Magnets with a thickness of approximately one inch can be used to remove most magnetic release security tags.

The Golf Detacher is also known as a superlock detacher. Inside the outer case, usually made of metal or plastic, is a series of neodymium magnets aligned in a circular pattern with one in the center. Cheaper versions that can be found on web stores like Aliexpress or Wish are one large neodymium magnet or 2-3 magnets in a row. These are not as powerful as a real Golf Detacher pattern.

The SuperTag Hook Detacher is used to open and release SuperTags was designed to be a part inside of a special gun-type device or countertop mounted device. When the tag was placed in this device it would push the hook into the SuperTag and release the clutch holding the pin in place. However, the hook can be used by itself to release the pin and remove the tag.

Booster Bags are designed to prevent alarm towers from sensing EAS tags as they pass through. They do this by using a metallic lining that prevents the signal from reaching the tag and activating the alarm. These bags can be homemade or professionally manufactured.

- Homemade bags are bags lined with multiple layers of aluminum foil. These can be purses, backpacks, or disposable shopping bags.
- Manufactured bags are RF shielding bags, wallets, and coin purses designed to protect thieves from stealing credit cards inside, but can also be used to prevent alarm towers from sensing EAS tags.

Demagnetizer

Acousto-Magnetic (AM) soft tags are designed to be deactivated by demagnetizing them. This means any demagnetizing tool can do this by simply rubbing the tag with a demagnetizer. Tags can even be deactivated through a layer of cardboard or plastic packaging as well, direct contact is not necessary.