BUSINESS SECURITY

RETAIL THEFT PREVENTION

Retailers may experience a variety of crimes but shoplifting is the most prevalent. Retail theft costs the Australian economy more than $2 billion per year.

To reduce your chances of your business becoming a victim of theft, consider these theft prevention strategies.

- Clearly display warning signs regarding the consequences of theft and the security measure in place at your business.
- Limit the number of entry and exit points to your business.
- Ideally, cash registers should be located close to exit points of the business and should be protected to prevent easy removal of money by offenders, such as elevating the cash register or counter area. This also improves view for staff.
- When showing valuable goods to customers, avoid placing more than one item on the counter at a time, particularly small items. It can lead to theft, confusion and/or fraudulent behaviour.
- Stock and shelves should be neatly stacked and price tags should be properly secured to goods.
- Use price tags that cannot easily be removed or altered.
- Give customers receipts for all purchases and spot check receipts at exits. Check expensive items as offenders can be very brazen by walking out the door with goods not paid for.
- Do not have 'special' tables at the front or outside the business unless permanently staffed.
- If the merchandise you are selling comes in pairs, only display one and advertise this fact.
- Display 'dummy' or 'disabled' goods, when practicable (e.g. compact disc covers, DVDs, computer games boxes etc).
- Where possible, lock expensive and easily portable goods in cabinets located close to staff working areas.
- A simple but smart uniform gives staff a sense of 'belonging' and 'authority' and ensures that staff are highly visible.
- Make sure that visitors have no direct access behind counters and that public and private areas are clearly defined.

For further business crime prevention information please visit www.police.sa.gov.au or contact your local police station.

South Australia Police (SAPOL) is committed to working in partnership with the community to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime to ensure that South Australia is a safe place to live, visit and do business.

Government of South Australia