



TOP Crime Reduction Tips for Retail Businesses

- Think about the locations of your stock. Is the most valuable stock close to the door/exit? If it is, perhaps to attract custom, make sure it is secure!
- Avoid placing spirits or high value goods in the shop window, this can be an irresistible invitation for opportunists to 'smash and grab'.
- Be helpful to your customers! A 'Can I help you?' shows people in your shop that you care, but also that you are vigilant! Who knows it may even lead to a sale.
- Do not have any goods stored outside your premises that can be easily stolen or used by criminals to climb on to gain entry or use as a means of escape.
- Be vigilant! Shoplifters often work in teams and while one is distracting the staff others could be taking stock or opening the till.
- Ensure your CCTV system complies with the Data Protection Act and regularly check the quality of the images collected.
- Position cameras towards the door/counter and high value goods.
- Lock away employees' personal items in a locker or locked room.
- Always be vigilant when opening or closing the store. It's common for criminals to force staff into the shop and get them to open the safe or tills.
- Leave the till drawer open when the shop is closed. If you are burgled it's much more cost effective to replace the float than a new till.
- Always carefully check details on credit cards. Be suspicious if the person looks nervous and is making purchases of items close to the credit limit.
- Always remember to switch on the alarm when locking up. If you have CCTV make sure it is recording 24 hours a day.
- Keep the back door locked. Thieves often enter store rooms and remove stock while staff are on the shop floor.
- Check all bank notes – you'd be surprised how many are counterfeit.
- Keep a list of useful telephone numbers next to the phone, to include local Police station, Store Manager or Supervisor and a glazing company.
- Keep high value goods on top shelves, close to the counter where staff can see them.

Don't put yourself or others at risk

- If someone tries to commit a robbery or theft - do not try to stop them. They are often desperate and dangerous people and many carry weapons.

Contact the Business Crime Reduction Centre
on 0114 275 1283 or visit our website at www.bcrc-uk.org

Business Crime Reduction Centre, working with South Yorkshire Police to reduce crime against business

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