

## A Guide to Shoplifting!

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### DISCLAIMER:

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### A GUIDE TO SHOPLIFTING

Since I started working at a grocery store, I have learned many techniques to shoplifting. I have learned some stuff by the mistakes made by several shoplifters, and others by experiment.

**RULE 1 :** NEVER NEVER NEVER try to steal something at a store you frequently shop at. That is just plain stupid. If you really want something bad enough, then spend a little gas money. Hey, its better than buying the product you are about to lift.

**RULE 2 :** Don't act suspicious or nervous. Employees aren't stupid. They know that if you are acting nervous, then you are usually up to something bad.

**RULE 3 :** Try to steal from stores without video survaliance. This is by far the safest way to do things.

**RULE 4 :** DO NOT be GREEDY! Take a little at a time. And take

things that will fit in your pocket or purse. Bigger items are harder to get away with.

RULE 5 : Try not to hit the same stores over and over. Have some variety in your life. You will be less likely to be caught if you don't frequently go to the same place.

RULE 6 : Do NOT be fooled by cameras with the name SVS. These are fakes! They do nothing but sit there. They look real by the way they have a cable going into a wall, and are plugged in and have a red light on, but they are still fake. GUARANTEED!

RULE 7 : Do NOT be stupid enough to steal around other shoppers. I have seen many instances where the employees never saw a person shoplift, but a customer had turned a shoplifter in, and the customer's word is just as incriminating as the employees.

RULE 8 : Many times if someone sees you trying to shoplift, they will start following you around. Calmly place the stuff back on the shelf, any shelf! They really can't get you as long as you haven't walked by a register, and start walking out the door, because until you start walking out the door, you still could have intent to pay, and if they do pick you up for shoplifting before you walk out the door, your case most likely will not hold up in court. Many

lawyers have freed many shoplifters because of that. If they pick you up. Start telling them you haven't had a chance to pay, and that they can not pick you up for shoplifting, until you have a chance to pay, or walk out the door! Just act like you know what you are talking about!

RULE 9 : When you start walking out the door and you see someone following you, then run for dear life. Most of the time you can get away. If you have a get-a-way car waiting, then be sure that the license plate is covered up. All it takes is for someone to write down the license plate number to get you caught.

RULE 10 : If by any chance you are caught trying to flee, try and wrestle your way out, but BE CAREFUL! Do not injure the person who is trying to catch you, let alone threaten them. If you just so happen to scratch them, the penalty goes from theft to Assault and Robbery, which means a bigger fine, or more time!

RULE 11 : Have someone waiting with bail money in case you get caught. \*8-)

Now on to some ways to shoplift.

Method 1 :

This is probably the easiest method. Get a friend of yours to go to a store with you. Have him/her act very very suspicious. When an employee sees someone acting suspicious the key in on that person. Soon they will have everyone in that store watching him/her. Then you go where ever the merchandise is, and steal away. You leave with whatever you wanted, and then your friend leaves soon after, feeling good that he/she has just fooled a store full of idiots.

Method 2 :

If you are a woman, then get a big purse. Empty it out, and pick the lucky victim. This works good at places with shopping carts. Place your purse in the section where children sit. Usually located at the front of the basket. Have your purse open at this point. Go around the store looking at whatever you like. When you find the item, pick it up, look at it, and casually sit it down like you are putting it in the basket, but instead of putting it in the basket, put it in your purse.

Method 3 :

Grocery stores are probably the easiest to hit. Most have low security if any. Only problem, is that most people think the only thing you can get at a grocery store is food. WRONG!! Go over to the more expensive area, HBA (Health & Beauty Aids). There is gold there. Get everything from Advil to Obsession Cologne. You ask yourself, why do i need 80 boxes of Advil? Take one box for yourself, then go sell the rest to friends, or take the stuff to a Flea Market, set yourself

up a booth, and sell away. Most boxes of Advil cost around \$8-\$10 each. You sell for \$5, and instant profit. But be careful in the HBA area, that is usually where the security will be, if any!. I have seen many stores, with out any cameras in the grocery area, but one camera in the ceiling in the HBA area. So just pick up the stuff, put it in the basket, carry it over to the grocery side, and take it! Another good thing to take from grocery stores is cigarettes. A carton is getting close to \$20 each. So take yourself a few, and sell to your friends/family for about \$10-\$15. Good profit there. Or if you are into that nasty habit, keep them for yourself.

#### Method 4 :

Whenever you need to get film developed, or prescriptions filled, then take it to your favorite grocery store. After you get your prescription and/or film, tell the clerk that you are going to do some more shopping. Walk around the store a little, then walk out the door. A good idea is to have a receipt from an old purchase. carry it in one hand, then carry the goods in the other. That way the look at you, see the receipt, and think that you payed for it.

#### Method 5 :

A good way to get free fertilizer, top soil, etc., is to go by your favorite nursery or whoever carries the stuff outside. Give them a visit about 3 a.m. or so, and fill up your truck or car. The best way to do this is to have someone driving, while you fill it up. If someone comes out of the store (like a night stocker) and confronts you, jump in

the back of the truck, and tell your friend to take off. Be sure to have your license plate covered up.

#### CONCLUSION :

Stores today are not there for you. They are there for themselves. They may claim low prices, but in all truth the merchandise is usually marked up 200% or more. I have seen some instances where cologne has been marked up 450%. This is outrageous. Why should we pay those kind of prices, when we can get it for free! Many stores may claim that shoplifting increases prices, although the real reasons for price increases is the Upper Division, who wants more added onto their 6 and 7 digit yearly salaries. So don't be fooled by that stupid warning. And remember Robin Hood, steal from the rich (THEM) and give to the poor (YOU, even if you aren't poor heh!).

#### The Art of Shoplifting

Shoplifting is a topic that is practically relevant to many and it should therefore not become an exclusive craft confined to a small shoplifting elite. On the contrary, shoplifting is an art that deserves the widest possible dissemination. For your convenience we have printed below a step by step guide to shoplifting. Good luck.

Within capitalism, most of us are either (1) alienated from our labour and hence dependent on the ruling classes for commodities as basic as food and clothing, (2) excluded from the division of labour, in which case we are likewise dependant on the State, or (3) performing unpaid and/or unrecognised labour and hence dependant on patriarchal relations for food, clothing, etcetera. In any case, our access to resources is severely limited by contemporary relations of domination. One partial solution to this problem may be to STEAL.

Sadly, however, many people living precariously on low incomes tend to either: (1) avoid shoplifting for anachronistic moral and/or ethical reasons; or (2) remain ignorant of the better methods and techniques of shoplifting, thus failing to maximise their lifting potential.

From the onset, the golden rule of theft should be enunciated: NEVER STEAL FROM SOMEBODY WHO COULD CONCEIVABLY BE A COMRADE. Hence kicking into a house on Bell Street with a beaten up old Mazda in the yard is irresponsible and counter-revolutionary!

Be careful, too, about taking stuff from small 'corner store' type shops -- you could be ripping off someone in a situation not dissimilar to your own. On the whole, it is best to play it safe and go straight for the big corporate fuckers.

Some people will suggest that shoplifters are a selfish breed, since 'we all pay for it in the end' through inflated prices to cover losses and so forth. However, comrades, this and closely analogous arguments are used to justify lowering wages, breaking unions, lowering corporate taxation and taxation on the rich and corporate sector we may as well sell ourselves into bonded slavery now, or join the Liberal Party.

No, the injunction against stealing from capitalism is itself a capitalist ideology and should be spurned as such. Although we have been taught that 'thou shalt not steal', an order historically backed by threats of divine retribution, this should not for one minute stop us from taking the redistribution of wealth into our own hands. Believe me, no-one is likely to do it for us.

What follows is a list of effective methods and observations that may prove useful.

Preparing oneself for the big haul:

1. If possible, you should always have some money on you when intending to shoplift, because if you've got none, it's rather hard to argue that to steal the item was a spontaneous decision. As a result, if you've got no money and are caught shoplifting you are more than likely to be charged for burglary as well as theft.
2. Buying something at the same time that you steal stuff doesn't necessarily ensure success. Approaching staff for items you are absolutely sure they don't have is just as good. Think of something that you know they don't have (i.e. a doona cover with a specific pattern on it or something equally obscure) and pretend that you are looking for this, so that you have an excuse for being there. If staff are ever suspicious of you or ask if they can help you, ask them if they've got the thing you are sure they don't have. Never screw this up -- if you do you will have to buy the item or they may realise that you are there to steal.
3. It is always a good idea to carry a bag although you should never stash anything in it -- if security/sales staff are suss on you the first place that they'll check is your bag and it may just get you off the hook if they can't find anything suspicious inside of it.
4. Remember that there is no such thing as a standard store detective -- there is no qualifying dress code, age, race, gender or class. Grandma will bust you this week and next week it'll be a 5 year old kid.

5. Just as there is no typical store detective nor is there a standard shoplifter. Security do not go looking for the poorly dressed people. They may pick on you out of boredom, but remember, only an unsuccessful store detective picks on poorly dressed people. By the same token don't believe the stale myth that suits + dresses = more successes; security anticipate that professional shoplifters will dress up a bit. Wear whatever you want.

On entering the maze:

1. As soon as you enter the store, suss out the sales people. First impressions often count here. You could find a valuable blind-eye turning ally in younger or less-affluent employees. Alternatively, an employee can often stand out as a more wishy-washy gullible individual -- so even if they see you they are likely to be too gutless to mention it, either to you or to security.

2. Don't be put off by signs such as 'shoplifters will be prosecuted' or 'security police patrol this store'. Often this is just bluff anyway, and in any case there is no security measure that cannot be undone by a clever shoplifter or a quick talker. Do, however, keep your eye on security and be on the lookout for video surveillance cameras.

3. Try to find where the video surveillance monitors are and who is watching them; often they are not even looking at them. See if you can get a glance at their monitor. Often it is one monitor hooked up to 20 cameras which changes sequentially (every 30 seconds or so). Other times it's one guy in a room looking at 50 screens while reading the paper or glued to the box. These monitors are usually pretty small and have a wide aperture, showing more of the room but not enough detail to adequately see what you are up to.

4. It is a good idea to keep your back to the camera as much as possible without looking suspicious. Check out cameras (hold-up cameras) are often set up to check on employees, so they are not hard to keep your back turned to.

Blind-spots and other lifting techniques:

1. A blind-spot is a section of the store where you are barely visible and can thus feel free to both dump and collect stuff, without fear of being seen. Display units can make perfect blind-spots -- they ensure security is confident they have their eye on you, when in fact they can only see your top half -- at the same time they enable you to keep your eye on security. For these reasons, the best blind-spots are usually below the chest -- around waist high. Blind-spots are good for loading into the lip of your jeans or into a jacket.

2. Make sure your blind-spot is not under surveillance. Never hang around your blind-spot for too long. Most of all, be careful to never lead security to your blind-spot.

3. A good method is to take everything you want to your blind-spot and collect it all later in one go, or better still get someone else to collect it for you. Getting someone else to collect for you can be a great system, particularly with exchanges -- which I'll come to later. If you are really pedantic, or you think that they are watching you, then load up, go to the toilets and pass the stuff under the wall/partition of the cubicle to a waiting friend in an adjoining cubicle and get them to leave with it.

(No item 4 in original text -- ed.)

5. Speaking of dunnies and change-rooms, one of the oldest tricks in the book is to put more than one garment on a hanger (works particularly well with women's underwear), go to the change-rooms and put the garment underneath what you are wearing. Alternatively, if you are a woman, you can slip your old bra on a hanger and put on the new one. Don't be put off by the staff as you enter the change-rooms -- they are usually quite disinterested and so long as the number of hangers you exit with matches the little plastic number they've given you they'll be satisfied.

6. On the subject of women's underwear, the lingerie department is ideally suited to male shoplifters -- not only is it the perfect excuse for looking embarrassed or suspicious (they have come to expect this), but staff are less likely to harass you by trying to help you and will be more sympathetic generally.

Exchanging crap for more crap

Exchanging things -- that is, taking the redistribution of wealth into your own hands by refunding yourself for an item you never paid for, or swapping something you stole that you don't want for something you do want, or swapping something that you don't want that is unstealable and therefore refundable -- is a whole new ball game.

1. If you plan to steal something and then make an exchange always take stuff that people are likely to take back like sheets, or other obscure household items. If questioned you can say to them "as if I'm gonna keep the receipt, I didn't plan to bring it back". Books and other small but expensive items such as computer software are also great exchangeables.

2. Stealing women's underwear and cosmetics are the perfect alibi for male shoplifters who specialise in exchanges. Male customers always fuck up buying stuff for their girlfriends/wives/mothers and when it comes to lingerie, it's just too easy for a guy to look goofy, have sales staff sympathise and all too quickly agree to exchange or refund the items. This works particularly well around Xmas time when you can tell them you bought it for your mother but she already had that one.
3. Never take an exchange item to the store you stole it from and make sure the other store (e.g. Myers in Doncaster as opposed to Northland) has the same item before you take it back.
4. Make sure you have chosen your item before you approach anyone for an exchange. Also, tell the people in the first department that you want an exchange without mentioning receipts -- they should send you down to the appropriate department for your other item and then ring up this department providing a referral, which if you are lucky will mean you do not have to provide a receipt given that everything appears legitimate.
5. The first time you exchange a stolen item for another product make sure you get something unstealable in return, like a video, watch, or something else kept behind a counter, so that the second time you do it, even if you don't get an exchange receipt they will not suspect that it is stolen.
6. Exchange receipts are a pain in the arse. Sometimes smart arse sales people will write a cross the original docket 'no original receipt' which is a problem, so if you have a bit of money on you, it is a good idea to exchange for something that costs a little bit more so that they have to give you a cash receipt.
7. Don't freak out if they call security while you are acting out an exchange -- as returns will often require security's signature this is quite standard procedure and nothing to worry about.
8. If you're having problems getting an exchange, big department stores normally have consumer rights people located upstairs somewhere -- they can usually be contacted by information telephones. These are people with big egos who like to wield power and the sales staff, who are much lower down the hierarchy, are usually pretty freaked out by this power. If you do get the ego from upstairs on side, they will organise a sales person to look after you and after the egomaniac goes up upstairs again, they sure will -- because the sales person does not want to be reprimanded by the same person from upstairs more than once, you will be practically able to get them to do anything that you want them to. A good technique is to tell the person upstairs a different story to the one that you tell the sales person. You can get angry at this stage and tell them that they fucked you around, that you don't want an exchange any more and that you want a refund now and they will usually comply.

9. Be wary of the long term employee -- you've got to know when to stop. Be particularly wary of the head of sales or middle management who have been working there for a long time (sometimes 20 years or more) and are not as scared of the big guys from upstairs as are the newer employees. You can often convince some of the younger staff that they are allowed to do refunds if you tell them that you used to work there.

10. Another commonly used technique is to take an empty bag from the same store with a receipt in it for previously paid for items and then nick the same stuff, which gives you the perfect alibi.

11. Better still, if you've got some money, find two things that are worth however much you've got, take them out of the store and stash them somewhere, then go back in and buy the exact same items. While leaving the checkout, make a big deal about it. "Am I doing the right thing? Will she like it? Will it fit him? etcetera" and then "what the heck!" (Make sure you don't go overboard and push them to mention keeping the receipt or worst of all mention it yourself!) Pay for it. About half an hour to a couple of hours later (not too long) take the stuff back to the same sales people and they'll usually give you cash without a receipt because they remember selling it to you. If you pull it off you've got a cash receipt and your stolen goods which you can exchange at another store.

Leaving the store safely:

1. Always double back just as you are about to leave the store so that you can check if anyone is following you (99.9% of the time they will follow you out of the store before they approach you). Alternatively, go up and down an escalator or in a lift and press every button in the lift and it will be obvious if anyone is following you.

2. If people are watching you, whatever you do, do not try to discreetly dump stuff unless you are absolutely sure that you can get away with it. If caught dumping stuff they usually won't charge you but they may fuck you around for a few hours.

3. If you are caught dumping stuff never let a store detective know it was because of them. Always make out it was a result of a sudden guilty conscience. Never let a store detective know that you know that they are on to you, because they won't put them on you the next time. That way you get to know store security and are able to keep your eye on them as much as you can.

4. If you want to have a bit of fun and don't plan to continue shoplifting that day, or ever, or you just don't give a shit, go up to a store detective and treat them like a sales person, asking them for help etcetera. It is just as embarrassing for them to be caught as it is for you. It is always a good thing to break their spirits or at least bring them down every now and again. Alternatively, use reverse psychology on them. Say "I'm going down to

such and such department. I'll see you down there". Often they'll be too embarrassed that they've been busted and think that you won't do it now that you're being watched and you will have the run of the mill.

5. NEVER GET TOO CONFIDENT or you will start to make silly mistakes.

The end:

Finally, if you get caught -- lie your teeth out! Never admit to premeditation. Always say that the opportunity arose, so you took it. Don't act tough or be a smart arse. Cry. Bawl. Admit a guilty conscience. Beg them not to call the cops. Tell them that CSV will take your kids off you and then weep.

Even though some stores say they have a policy to call the police it is not necessarily true and they may, after lots of tears and admissions of guilt, just get you to sign a statement which says you'll never enter that store again. If the cops do arrive, it's a good idea to act scared shitless because they may assume you're a first offender and not bother to check your record. Don't antagonise the filth -- it is their personal discretion as to how bad you get busted.

You are most likely to be charged with 'theft' if caught shoplifting, but you can be charged with 'burglary' as well if you don't have any money on you. 'Equipped to steal' is what you will be charged with if, for example, you have a slit in the lining of your jacket for concealing stolen goods. 'Obtaining financial advantage' and 'deception' are what you are likely to be charged with as well as 'theft', if caught exchanging stolen items.

Shoplifting Prevention Tips

SHOPLIFTING FACTS AND PREVENTION

Did you know? Theft of a \$2.00 item from a store operating on a 10% profit margin requires the sale of \$20.00 in merchandise to make up the loss. Supermarkets and others operating on low margins of 1% must sell \$300.00 in merchandise, just to cover the theft of a \$3.00 item.

WHO ARE SHOPLIFTERS?

General shoplifters are solid citizens who are bored or need to stretch their budgets.

Professional shoplifters are skilled thieves who have specialized techniques. The pro is the hardest to deter and most difficult to detect. The professionals usually target expensive items.

Youth make up nearly half of all shoplifters. Many do it just for kicks. Some even shoplift in gangs and compete to see who can steal the most.

Drug Addictions issues are the driving force to shoplift to support an expensive habit. These individuals are often desperate.

Kleptomaniacs are persons who steal because of psychological compulsion. Stopping the kleptomaniac is a service to both the offender and the community.

## PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Greet customers as they enter the store. Attention is good for business and bad for the shoplifter.

Watch customers' behaviours. Are they watching you? Are they trying to distract you by asking about the product, to look in the back room, for a tissue, to use the bathroom, to call another store, etc? Darting eyes and nervous hands are frequent clues.

Be on the lookout for people carrying large purses or shopping bags or who wear unusually bulky clothing. Big open purses and bags that appear to be fairly empty are one of the biggest red flags to look for. After all, your shoplifter needs a place to conceal the items. Pay attention to the condition of the bag and the store name on the bag. For example if he/she is carrying a really beat up bag, know that it might have been used or reused in attempts to shoplift because most retailers will not just give away their crisp clean bags without a purchase being made. Due to the Go Green movement, many bring their own bags with them to put their purchases in.

Be wary of distracting situations. Pros often work in pairs—one distracts the employee, while the other shoplifts.

Is your customer shopping alone? Shoplifters will obviously shop together, distract and shoplift or they will arrive at different times as though they don't know each other, but in reality they are partners in crime.

Are there children involved? Is your customer distracting you while the child shoplifts or are you distracted by the child who could afford the customer time to shoplift?

Beware of the customers that might switch price tags on clothing in order to get them cheaper.

## SHOPLIFTING TECHNIQUES

### Hiding the Merchandise

A large open bag is a common shoplifter tool. It's placed at the thief's feet, and objects are casually dropped into it. Keep an eye out for shopping bags that are not from local stores. Preventing this is why many stores staple bags shut. Other stores require customers to leave their bags by the front door when they come in.

Women sometimes use purses to hide stolen items. There is little you can do to stop women from carrying purses and handbags.

The best prevention in these cases is to watch the customers very carefully.

The baby carriage or stroller is a great tool for shoplifters. There are always blankets, toys, and other things in strollers (including the baby) that merchandise can be hidden under. Some thieves have even built false bottoms in baby carriages.

A newspaper can be used to hide small objects.

Umbrellas with handles are handy for shoplifters trying to steal small items. A common tactic is to keep a closed (but not snapped) umbrella hanging on one's elbow or leaning against a counter, and then to drop items into it.

### Shoplifter's Clothing

"Crotch-walking" is a technique used by women wearing full skirts and dresses. They simply place the merchandise between their thighs and walk away. Thieves who are good at this have been known to steal hams, typewriters, and other large objects.

Baggy clothes in general are good places to hide stolen items. Some people have extra pockets or hooks sewn into coats and jackets. Beware of the customer with a large coat who keeps his hand in a coat pocket. Some shoplifters have cut slits in the pocket lining, so they can reach for items without being seen. They may make a big deal out of inspecting an item while the other hand slips out and grabs something.

Some shoplifters are more daring.

Some shoplifters just grab stuff and walk out with it. They rely on the gullibility and slow response time of sales clerks.

Some shoplifters grab garments from racks close to the door and run off. This can be prevented very easily by alternating the directions of hangers. This makes the hangers "lock up" when someone tries to remove many at once.

The really brazen thieves simply walk out with large items that are not ordinarily put in bags. Prevent this by making it unusual for legitimate customers to carry out their large purchases, with a policy that all large items must be picked up at a location physically separate from the sale floor, or that employees take all large items out to customer's cars. Or you could put big bright stickers on purchased large items. This at least makes it easy for employees to tell if the merchandise is being stolen.

A common technique, especially if your fitting rooms aren't well monitored, is for the thief to steal garments by putting them on under her own clothes and wearing them out of the store. Others will just put the clothing on and walk out. It's difficult to catch one of these people, because if they haven't concealed the item, they technically haven't stolen it until they exit the store without paying.

Most shoplifters can't succeed unless they get some privacy. This is why one of the best ways to stop shoplifting is to greet customers as soon as they walk in, then be attentive to them the rest of the time. But skilled shoplifters can distract sales associates using the following tricks:

They enter the store in groups then separate which makes it difficult for employees to watch all of them.

A pair of shoppers comes in, and while one distracts you with questions, the other steals.

A single shopper sends the only employee in the store into the back room to find something, and then steals stuff and leaves before the employee comes back.

ACT NOW!

Most importantly, once you suspect you have a shoplifter on your hands, you must provide the best customer service ever, and fast.

This is the best way to deter shoplifting. Build a connection with the customer and exchange names. Once you have a name, whether it's real name or not, the shoplifters are less likely to shoplift from you because they know you are on top of your business.

Prevention methods to undertake if possible:

Install convex mirrors, closed circuit TV cameras or security officers.

Train your personnel to spot shoplifters and make sure they are vigilant.

Pay particular attention to fitting rooms and other isolated areas.

Try to arrange your counters and displays in a way to deter shoplifters.

Put displays in full view of all employees.

Lock anything small that can be easily slipped into a pocket or handbag, in counter cases when possible.

Keep expensive items away from entrances.

Most people employed in a retail environment are faced with shoplifting incidents on a regular, if not frequent basis. Unfortunately though, most do not know exactly how they should handle the situation.

From a legal point of view, if you interdict the shoplifter and detain that person for the police, you are in effect making an arrest.

Therefore, it is important that you know what your legal authority is:

Section 494 of the Criminal Code of Canada specifically states where your authority comes from.

Anyone may arrest without warrant

a) a person whom he finds committing an indictable offence; or

b) a person who, on reasonable and probable grounds, he believes

i) has committed a criminal offence AND

ii) is escaping from and freshly pursued by person(s) who have lawful authority to arrest that person.

Anyone who is the owner or a person in lawful possession of property; or a person authorized by the owner or by a person in lawful possession of property, may arrest without warrant a person whom he finds committing a criminal offence on or in relation to that property.

Anyone other than a peace officer who arrests a person without warrant shall forthwith deliver that person to a peace officer.

As noted in subsection 2, the operative phrase is finds committing. You must actually see the offence take place. If someone tells you what occurred, you do not have the legal authority to detain that person for the police.

If you do see someone take some property from your store, the offence has to be complete. That means the shoplifter must be given every opportunity to legitimately purchase whatever item is in their possession.

Therefore the shoplifter must actually leave the store for the theft to be complete. Once outside, if you are absolutely certain the person took something, you should tell someone in your store what you are going to do, then approach the offender and identify yourself as the store owner or employee. Say something to the effect of, "I observed you take (item) from the store without paying for it (them). Come with me. I'm going to notify the police."

In most cases, the offender will do as you request. Escort the individual back to your office or other quiet area. Ensure the item(s) in their possession do not get discarded on the way there. You can look very foolish if

this happens. Do not engage in searching the individual. Once in the office, ask for the property back. If the thief refuses, that's fine. Just ensure they remain seated with their hands in your view. The police will search them upon their arrival.

If security personnel are on duty, they should be summoned immediately. They are trained in how to deal with the various ramifications of an arrest and they will also be able to assist in maintaining a physical "force" while waiting for the police.

If security is not on duty, obtain some assistance from someone else - be it another employee, a neighbour or whomever.

Ensure that when you call the police, you use the 9-1-1 system. That's what it's for. Tell the operator you are "holding a shoplifter." Ensure that the operator knows you are not a store detective, but an employee. This will speed up the response time. If there is any sign or potential of violence from the perpetrator, ensure you advise the operator - especially if the thief is not being co-operative.

If there is a potential for violence, remember there are no points for being a "hero." Your safety is paramount. A thief can always be caught. If they will not co-operate with you, that's fine. Go immediately to a phone and call the police

source: a police department in the western world

Here's a probably excessive guide for anyone who wants to shoplift while minimizing risk. Sorry if it's too dense. This is mostly about behavior and tactics, nothing technical. If I had ever shoplifted, and this weren't all completely hypothetical, I would never ever get caught, using these general rules:

Don't shoplift from liquor stores, anywhere the owner is strapped, anywhere that has iron bars over the windows, pawn shops, or generally places where the cashier has an unobstructed view of the room. They're ready for you. It's just a bad idea. If you're that good, by all means, it's just much too risky for my tastes. Instead, hit big retailers like Freddy's, Safeway, though non-franchised supermarkets aren't as likely to have stringent corporate loss prevention policies. The employees in big stores generally can't be bothered, and are too spread out to closely monitor the entire floor.

Stay. Calm. Act like you're there as a regular shopper. If you put on a face that says "I just got off work and am slightly annoyed but not threatening," people won't question you. Also, going around and browsing different aisles while pretending to compare things for a moment can help, but be careful of retreading ground more than twice.

Be clean, I think being shaving helps as a man unless you have carefully groomed facial hair, and avoid unkempt hairstyles, or anything else that might be associated with "unsavory folk". Dress and act like a middle class white person, even if you're not. Seriously, it throws people off the scent like nothing else

Once you're ready, survey the entrances and exits. Oftentimes, even places with theft prevention gates will have an entrance/exit without them. Find an exit that is as far from the cashiers as possible, and use that. If there isn't one, most of the time if you just walk by the cashiers with your stuff, then walk towards the exit like nothing is wrong, no one will question you, as the first cashiers you walk by will assume you're going to the next one, and the last will assume you went to a previous one, if they're even paying attention at all. Often just walking through/near self checkout is enough. I generally wouldn't advise these tactics if the store is completely dead. Also, NEVER EVER book it unless you've been caught, triggered theft prevention gates, or are RIGHT near the entrance, not that this will ever happen if you play it cool.

Even if a store has theft prevention gates at every entrance, they don't always work. There are a lot of different types and ways to get around them/test their efficacy. A lot of times they don't even work or don't detect items without "hard tags", the things you might find on clothing. This article gives great insights on how to beat security gates, in addition to providing other helpful links. I would recommend exploring them if you want to steal more high value items without risk: <http://blog.envyision.com/retail/how-thieves-beat-security-tags-in-retail-stores>.

Case the area you want to lift from for cameras by quickly scanning the ceiling and walls when employees aren't looking (although, even if there are cameras, the quality is generally shit, you can just keep your head down or wearing a baseball cap if you so choose, and it's not like you're really in danger from some shitty security guy who probably doesn't even review tapes anyways).

A bag can be helpful in places where there are camera blindspots, and at least one place in the store where often no one will be around for at around 10-20 seconds at a time. It's easier to find these spots than you might think. You really don't often need one though, and in supermarkets, it's usually MUCH safer to grab a basket and act like you belong. Bags are usually better for non anally observant smaller stores, which I'll go over in a sec.

To minimize risk when leaving, a bike is better than a car, cause you can just quickly unlock it, leave the parking lot through a place where cars can't go, maybe a little hillside at the edge of the parking lot, then disappear into a nearby neighborhood. It's also faster and more endurant than some theft prevention fool trying to run you down. You should never even have to use this advice if you follow the rest of the guide. Once you've hit a place successfully, this probably isn't very important.

If you live in CA, HA, IL, IN, IA, LA, ME, MA, MI, MO, NE, NV, NM, OH, SD, WA, WV, or WY, then congrats! You can find a lot of stores where you can just walk in and grab liquor.

If you do want to lift from a smaller place, there are a few things to consider:

Even if they prohibit bags, it's not always a sign that they're well equipped to deal with you. Test the waters by walking in with a backpack as if you're just going about your day, acting like you're there with the intent to buy a specific thing, and stay calm. If they call you out, give them your bag, look around, and leave. That person's watching you. If you want, try again when a different cashier is there. Different people give different levels of shits.

Find a route through the store with the least amount of eyes. Don't be overt about it, just notice it on your way in. The same logic applies with entrances/exits as large stores, but your pathing inside the store is more important here.

Once you're in, check for cameras as you would at a large store, but be MUCH more careful, and don't lift while in their FOV. They are probably actually watching them. If you find a spot where there aren't cameras though, just casually grab whatever it is you want, walk to the blind spot, and put it in your bag.

When leaving after using a bag/pockets/coat, it can help ease suspicion to lightly furrow your brow, and shake your head slightly as if to say: "Nope, didn't find what I was looking for. I'm slightly annoyed, and just want to get on with my day."

Convenience stores are low return, and vary drastically in risk. I wouldn't even bother, as the proprietors are often watchful/shrewd, and it's kinda more dickish to steal from a small business than a large one that can absorb tons of losses.

Honestly, now that I've written this, it's kind of just like a trivially easy stealth game. I hope this helps you think about how to shoplift, purely intellectually of course. If I've offered any bad advice, or you have things to add, please let me know!