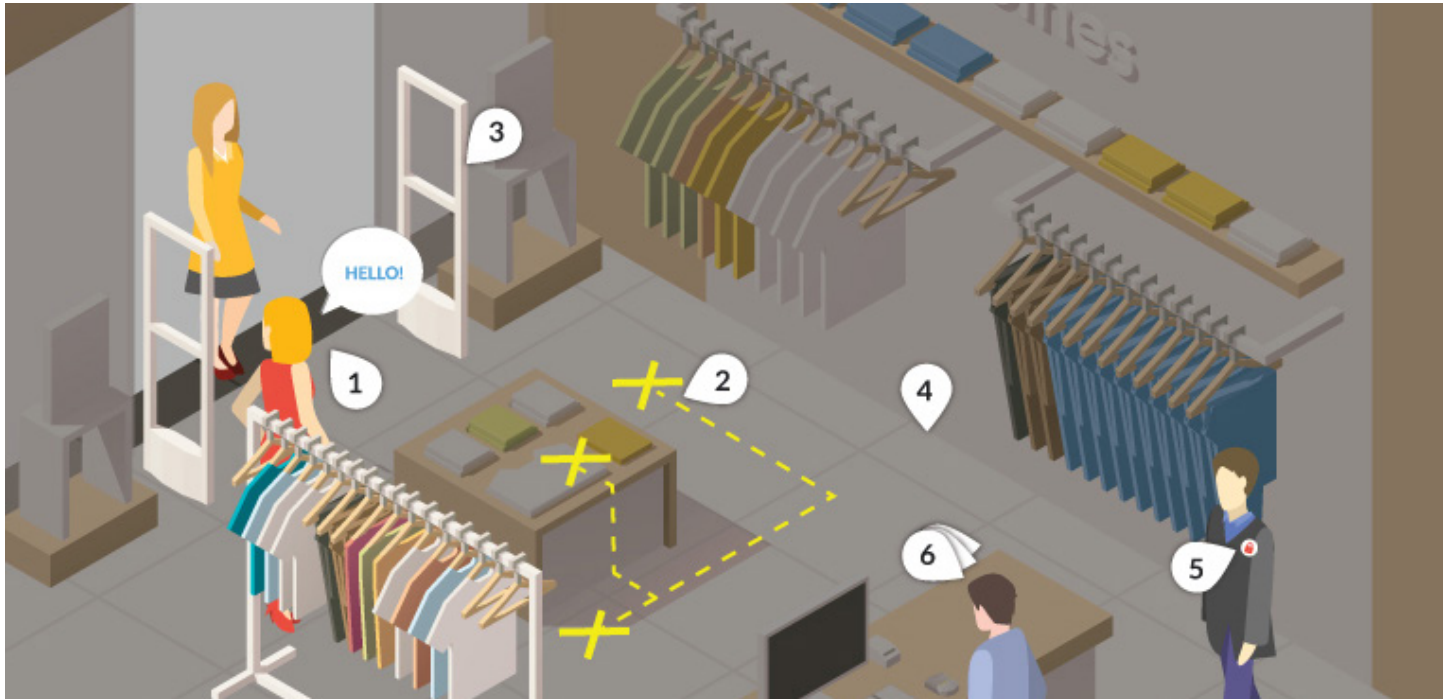


Six top tips for securing your shop

Safer Business Network would like to share the following Six Top Tips given by the Metropolitan Police on how to secure your shop.



1 Meet and Greet

Shoplifters always assess how easy it is to steal from a shop as soon after they enter. If they are spoken to by a member of staff this reduces the likelihood of them committing a criminal act in your store. This is known as 'the three-to-five second rule'. Greeting customers as they enter your premises can put off shoplifters because it sends out a message that you and your staff are paying attention.

2 Crime Mapping

Identify where inside the store thefts are occurring. Keep records of incidents and make notes on the location, date, times. Think like a criminal! Can you improve the surveillance? Can you see the area from the till? Try making the area more visible by repositioning or lowering stock and shelving. Consider placing more staff or even displaying the items elsewhere.

3 Electronic tagging

Tag your items with 'Electronic Article Surveillance'. Anti-theft systems encompass a wide range of devices and technologies. A correctly installed and security accredited anti-theft terminal (and tagging system) at a store entrance is a statement to potential shoplifters that 'this store is protected'. Thieves often target premises that don't have this equipment. You are guaranteed to see a drop in shoplifting once an anti-theft terminal system is installed on the door.

4 Keep it tidy

A clean and tidy retail outlet with clear visibility across the shop floor tells a thief that everything is in order! Keep things security friendly, with uncluttered, wide aisles where possible, thereby making it extremely difficult for them to steal unnoticed.

5 Personal safety

You can't predict who's coming into your shop or how they will behave. Shoplifters could respond aggressively when challenged. Employers should conduct a risk assessment in conjunction with Health and Safety directions. Always trust your instincts and only engage a potential shoplifter if it is safe to do so. Keep a safe distance and then ask them if they need any help or if they require a basket or a bag - If you're feeling uncomfortable, be polite, step away and quietly alert your manager or security team.

6 Safety in numbers

For as much of the day as possible, try not to be alone. Thieves target stores where there is only one member of staff. More eyes in the store, means you're more likely to spot a thief, so have a few members of staff and make sure they're trained in how to spot shoplifters.

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