

## Costs for Teenagers in General

Store owners must compensate for the loss of every stolen item. Between compensation and having to install additional security measures prices must go up to justify.

When stores lose money to shoplifters owners won't make enough profit to pay employees making fewer available especially to teens.

Some stores restrict the number of teens allowed to enter their establishment. This can strain relationships and this is a direct result of shoplifting.

Shoplifting can result in people in the community seeing all teens as a problem.

### Take Action

It is your responsibility if you witness a shoplifting to turn them in. They are stealing from you too

Find out how much shoplifting affects a store, interview a security manager for a class project and share what you learn.

## CONTACT US

For more information on this and other department services, contact:

**Flathead County Sheriff's Office  
Community Resource Unit  
406.758.5602**

Or

Visit our website at [www.flatheadcountysheriff.com](http://www.flatheadcountysheriff.com)

- Programs and Services
- Local crime mapping
- Crime prevention tips
- And more.....



**Professionals in Law Enforcement**



**Flathead County  
Sheriff's Office**

**-Store Theft-  
Understanding through  
Education**



**Sheriff Chuck Curry**

**920 South Main Street, Suite 100**

**Kalispell, MT 59901**

**[www.flatheadcountysheriff.com](http://www.flatheadcountysheriff.com)**

## Store Theft

Shoplifting is a serious problem that affects everyone. For instance, are you ever frustrated when shopping? The clerks are watching you and your friends every move. You can't take all your items into the dressing room and they are counted and recounted upon entering and leaving. These are measures that stores must resort to. Stores spend millions of dollars a year on security but one slip and thousands can be lost in a matter of moments from shoplifting. Everyone pays the price for shoplifting, prices rise and shopping becomes a hassle and everyone becomes a suspect.

### Why do People Shoplift?

Is it curiosity? Can "I" get away with it? It could also be peer-pressure and not wanting to be thought of as a coward if they don't shoplift. This is most often case of a teenager. There are many excuses, people believe the store can afford it or write it off on their taxes or they just don't have the money.

## Consequences for Shoplifting

The sheriff's deputies or police are called immediately when a shoplifter is caught by a clerk or security. The deputy or officer then arrests the suspect.

If it is a child's or teen's first offense they are often released to their parents custody.

A juvenile probation officer can be referred the case or a judge may also decide a penalty.

Police or court officers will interview friends, family, parents, school administrators and even neighbors when investigating. Eventually, everyone will hear about the arrest.

### What happens in your community

Shoplifting can result in a neighborhood shop closing its doors because it has lost too much money. Theft accounts for thirty percent of business failures in the U.S.

Employees can be laid off because of low revenue due to shoplifting.

Prices will rise to make up for expenses and security that comes from shoplifting.

**The fact is, "Shoplifting takes everyone's money!"**



## Who Shoplifts?

Teens between the ages of 13 and 17 account for about 24 percent of apprehended shoplifters.

Amateurs, everyday people who see something they want or looking for a thrill. These thieves are not professional and tend to think they won't get caught. Amateurs make up the majority of shoplifters.

Customers tend to steal from places they frequently shop from

Shoplifters can be drug addicts supporting their addictions.

A very small number of shoplifters are desperate people in need of food.

Shoplifters can also be people with a mental disorder that makes it nearly impossible to overcome the urge to steal this tiny group are kleptomaniacs.

For more information contact the Sheriff's Community Resource Unit at 406.758.5602 or [www.flatheadcountysheriff.com](http://www.flatheadcountysheriff.com)