



**TOWN OF DUCK
POLICE DEPARTMENT
1259 DUCK ROAD
DUCK, NC 27949**

Shoplifting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Crime prevention through Environmental Design contends that perceived safety in a community can be created by designing a physical environment that influences positive human behavior. This can be accomplished by:

- ◆ **Increasing Visibility:** A design concept directed at keeping intruders easily observable. Use lighting, landscaping, and the placement of windows to increase the ability to see what's going on in an area. When used to its greatest advantage, it maximizes the potential for deterring crime because criminal behavior is more easily noticeable to anyone passing by.
- ◆ **Controlling Access:** A design concept directed at controlling access to potential targets. This is created by using and incorporating physical and mechanical means of access control.
- ◆ **Security Surveys:** Our police officers offer a security survey service for commercial properties within the Town. These surveys are designed to assess the property for ways to make it more secure and to give recommendations that the owner can implement to address potential security issues. Security surveys are conducted on an as requested basis.

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BUSINESS SECURITY

Shoplifting & Burglary Protection

**Presented By
The Town of Duck
Police Department**



**Phillip A. Ferguson, Chief of Police
1259 Duck Road
Duck, NC 27949
townofduck.com**

**Emergency: DIAL 911
Non-Emergency: (252) 261-1112
24-HR Police Mobile: (252) 599-1057
Radio: Duck AM 530**

Shoplifting

The crime of shoplifting occurs when an item of value is concealed while on the premises of the store before the item has been purchased. *The crime then becomes misdemeanor larceny once the suspect leaves the store.*

What Can You Do As A Business Owner To Reduce Shoplifting?

- ◆ Good visibility should be maintained through windows; expensive items should be removed from displays before closing.
- ◆ Lights must provide optimum visibility inside and out, with vandal-proof covers over the outside lights and power source.
- ◆ The perimeter must be well-lit, especially around all entry points.
- ◆ The cash register should be in plain view from outside so it can be easily monitored. Leave the drawer open upon closing.
- ◆ Contact the Town Offices at (252) 255-1234 for Dark Sky Lighting information and requirements.



Upgrade Retail Security

- ◆ Restrict the number of unaccompanied youth allowed in the store.
- ◆ Establish clear rules for the use of the changing room (i.e. two items per visit.)
- ◆ Keep high-value items in locked cabinets, use cable locks, and security hangers.
- ◆ Seal bags with a stapler after purchase to reduce impulse stealing.
- ◆ Require receipt for refund.
- ◆ Post “*Shoplifters will be Prosecuted*” signs within store.
- ◆ Train staff in shoplifting prevention. (The Duck Police Department will gladly assist you.)

How Can The Duck Police Department Help Me?

The Duck Police Department will make every effort to be highly visible in the community, which will include officers frequently conducting foot patrol in and around the Town’s shops.

The Duck Police Department also offers intensive security surveys for businesses. Once requested, an officer will come to the business and conduct a survey of the interior and exterior of the building. The officer will then work with the business owner to implement recommendations on how better to secure the business from theft.

What To Do If You Suspect Shoplifting is Occurring

- ◆ **DIAL 911 IMMEDIATELY!**
- ◆ Stall the suspect, but **DO NOT** make an attempt to use force to stop him/her.
- ◆ If the suspect leaves the store, record all the information that you can, such as suspect description (clothing, age, hair color, etc.) and/or vehicle (i.e. tag, state, make, model, number of occupants).

What Will The Duck Police Do Once On The Scene?

- ◆ The police officer will speak to the staff and the suspect about the situation.
- ◆ If possible, the suspect will be removed from the public eye.
- ◆ The suspect will most likely be issued a citation with a mandatory court date.
- ◆ Depending on the case, the item may be taken by the officer as evidence.
- ◆ Arrests will be made if the officer deems it necessary.
- ◆ The store owner or clerk will be subpoenaed to court.
- ◆ The District Attorney will prosecute the case.
- ◆ The District Attorney will work with the victim to obtain restitution.

