

HOW THIEVES ARE STEALING THROUGH YOUR ENTRANCE

The “entrance” is one of the most vulnerable areas to theft in a retail store. Retailers tend to concentrate their efforts on watching their exit as it is their impression that shoplifters attempting to leave the store with unpaid items will typically leave through the exit. However, shoplifters realize that most security devices and the heaviest concentration of employees are positioned near the cash registers. They take advantage of this

fact to exit out the entrance with your meats, beer, wine, cosmetics and other high priced items. With so many people entering the store throughout the day it is virtually impossible to continuously monitor the incoming traffic. Years of experience have enabled

Integral to identify the twelve most common ways theft occurs through the entrance. Upon identifying this, Integral developed a comprehensive preventative solution, greatly decreasing a thief’s probability of success, and saving retailers millions.



THE TWELVE WAYS TO STEAL THROUGH THE ENTRANCE

Most stores often employ security cameras to monitor their entrance. However, it is extremely difficult to monitor which customers are stealing merchandise by exiting the entrance. Unless they are walking out with full grocery carts, identifying a would-be thief might

involve hours of reviewing security video. Chances are, if the thief was apprehended; the items would be long gone.

So the first and easiest way for a thief to steal through the entrance is to:

WALK OUT: What if the store in question has installed an EAS security device at its entrance? This solution not only involves installing fairly expensive security towers at the entrance but also placing non reusable magnetic tags on all the items to be monitored. Besides being time consuming this form of protection has proven to be quite ineffective. Too many false alarms over time have dulled employees' reaction to the point of almost ignoring them.

With the increase in violence, Store employees are afraid to pursue potential thieves into parking lots and malls. Again, experienced thieves will just walk out, set off EAS alarms and continue walking knowing that most likely no one is running after them. A grocery store manager once mentioned that the alarm on their EAS system would frequently go off but always seemed to stop at 3PM. He later added that the store security guard only came on duty at 3PM each day. Other store managers have admitted turning their EAS systems off due to the frequency of false alarms.

Another entrance security device that everyone has encountered in one form or another is the mechanical solution. This can be a rotating turnstile or some kind of mechanical barrier or gate installed at the entrance that requires the customer to pass through it to enter into the store. Typically these devices allow movement in one direction (i.e. entering the store) but will not allow passage in the opposite direction (i.e. exiting the store). While these devices might be effective in preventing thieves from leaving with full shopping carts, they do not deter thieves from:

THE DUCK UNDER: A method whereby a person attempts to exit the store by going under the mechanical barrier.

THE HANDOVER: A person on the inside of the store hands one or more items or a basket of items over to someone on the other side of the mechanical device.

THE SLIDING CASE: Someone on the inside of the store slides a basket or a beer case through the mechanical system (maybe to an accomplice) on the other side.

ABANDONED ITEMS: The thief leaves a basket of items, or a beer

case in the vicinity of the mechanical device then exits the store through the exit, comes back around to entrance (outside of the mechanical system) and simply retrieves the items.

Some of the more elaborate mechanical entrance systems available today may even have single or double barriers, and various alarm features in an effort to channel the shopper with or without a shopping cart into the store. Unfortunately most of these devices are still defenseless against the following scenarios:

THE GRAB (TYPE 1): A person on the inside of the store grabs hold of the barrier of the entrance system and tries to open it in an attempt to exit.

THE GRAB (TYPE 2): A person who has not yet entered the entrance system holds open the exterior barrier while a person on the inside of the store tries to open the inner barrier to exit.

THE SNEAK: One of the most common tricks, a thief on the inside of the store waits until someone enters through the entrance system then before the barrier can close, grabs the barrier, keeps it open and walks out through the entrance system.

THE DOUBLE 90 (TYPE 1):

A person enters the entrance system and holds both barriers wide open while another person attempts to exit the store with a cart or basket of items.

THE DOUBLE 90 (TYPE 2): A person enters the entrance system and stays between the barriers holding both barriers open just enough for another person to squeeze through with some number of unpaid items.

THE DOUBLE 90 (TYPE 3): A person who has not yet entered the entrance system or has just passed through the entrance systems holds both barriers open while another person passes through with a cart or some number of unpaid items.

HOLDING THE BARRIER OPEN TOO LONG: A person keeps one of the barriers open for an indefinite amount of time allowing people to enter and exit through the entrance system without control.

SHERIFF



The INTEGRAL Difference

Systems with embedded logic and environmental sensing capabilities (intelligent entrance gates) like the Sheriff and the Deputy have proven over and over again to be effective against the theft scenarios identified above while providing easy access to customers. Clearly, in order to detect and react to all the possible theft scenarios identified, an entrance system must combine a mechanical and software solution with multiple sensors which can virtually “watch” what is going on inside, outside and between the barriers.

When a shoplifter attempts to exit or steal through the entrance, the Integral system of choice will take whatever action it determines necessary when it detects that an unauthorized situation has or is in the process of occurring. These actions consist of flashing lights, audible alarms, automatically locking the arms and/or voice prompts advising the perpetrator that this is not an exit and to please re-enter the store. For more information please contact info@integraltech.ca or visit the Integral website at www.integraltech.ca

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