

## HOW TO BE SAFE WHEN WORKING IN A CONVENIENCE STORE

### To stay safe while working in a convenience store:

- Prioritize being alert;
- Know your store's layout including exits and alarms;
- Maintain good visibility by keeping counters clear;
- Limit cash on hand;
- Following robbery protocols if necessary;
- Reporting any suspicious activity to authorities;
- Always be aware of your surroundings;
- Trust your instincts if something feels unsafe.

### Key safety practices for convenience store workers:

- **Know your surroundings:** Familiarize yourself with all exits, alarm locations, and emergency procedures.
- **Maintain clear sightlines:** Keep counters and windows clear of obstructions to maintain a good view of the store and customers.
- **Limit cash on hand:** Minimize the amount of cash in the register to reduce potential robbery targets.
- **Be observant:** Watch for suspicious behavior and be alert to potential threats.
- **Proper cash handling:** Use a drop safe to deposit large sums of cash quickly.
- **Post signage:** Display signs indicating that employees cannot access the safe and that there is a security system in place.
- **Use security cameras:** Ensure security cameras are functional and cover all key areas of the store.
- **Train on robbery response:** Learn how to react calmly and appropriately in the event of a robbery.
- **Communicate with colleagues:** If you feel uncomfortable, communicate with co-workers and report any suspicious activity.
- **Call for help:** Don't hesitate to call the police if you believe someone is a threat.  
Important points to remember:
- **Avoid confrontations:** If possible, don't engage with aggressive customers or try to physically intervene in a situation.
- **Trust your instincts:** If something feels wrong, take action to protect yourself.
- **Stay aware of your surroundings, especially during late night hours .**
- **Report any maintenance issues like broken lights or faulty doors to management .**

### Cash handling - Some best practices include:

- Never accept bills larger than \$20
- Immediately drop all \$20 or larger bills in view of the customer
- Do not cash large checks

### During a robbery Employees should:

- Stay calm and do as instructed by the robber
- Keep their hands in sight
- Get a good look at the robber, but don't stare
- Do not chase or follow the robber
- Cooperate for the safety of themselves and others
- Tell the robber about any movements they plan to make
- Activate an alarm if it can be done safely

### **After the robbery**

- Employees should call the police immediately and provide a description of the robber.
- They should also take notes of anything they remember about the robber, including any physical features or anything they might have touched.
- Other ways to prevent robberies include: improving lighting, installing security cameras, implementing access control systems, and using technology such as panic buttons and video surveillance.

## **10 BEST NON-LETHAL SELF-DEFENSE WEAPONS:**

In an increasingly unpredictable world, personal safety is a paramount concern. While many people consider firearms for self-defense, there is a growing interest in non-lethal self-defense weapons that can effectively deter threats without causing fatal harm. Here's a comprehensive guide to the 10 best non-lethal self-defense weapons to help you feel secure without compromising your values.

1. **Stun Guns:** Stun guns are a popular non-lethal self-defense weapon that deliver a high-voltage shock to an attacker, temporarily incapacitating them. They are compact, easy to carry, and highly effective in close-quarters situations.

#### **Key Features:**

- High-voltage shock
- Compact and portable
- Effective at close range

2. **Pepper Spray:** Pepper spray is a versatile and widely used self-defense tool. It causes intense irritation to the eyes, skin, and respiratory system, providing a window of escape. Available in various sizes, it's ideal for carrying in a purse or pocket.

#### **Key Features:**

- Causes severe irritation
- Compact and easy to carry
- Long range

3. **Personal Alarms:** Personal alarms are small, handheld devices that emit a loud, attention-grabbing sound when activated. The noise can deter attackers and alert nearby people to your distress, providing an opportunity to escape.

#### **Key Features:**

- Loud, attention-grabbing sound

- Lightweight and portable
  - Easy to use
4. **Tactical Pens:** Tactical pens double as writing instruments and self-defense tools. Made from durable materials, they can be used to strike an attacker and are inconspicuous enough to carry anywhere.
- Key Features:
  - Dual-purpose design
  - Durable and discreet
  - Easy to carry
5. **Kubotans:** Kubotans are small, handheld weapons typically used to apply pressure to sensitive areas. They are effective for self-defense and can be attached to keychains for easy access.
- Key Features:**
- Effective pressure-point weapon
  - Compact and portable
  - Can be attached to keychains
6. **Self-Defense Keychains:** Self-defense keychains come in various designs, including sharp points and knuckle-style grips. They are easy to carry and can provide an effective means of defense in a confrontation.
- Key Features:**
- Various designs for effective defense
  - Easy to carry
  - Can be attached to keychains
7. **Tasers:** Tasers deliver an electric shock through projectile prongs, allowing you to incapacitate an attacker from a distance. They are effective and provide a non-lethal means of self-defense.
- Key Features:**
- Electric shock delivered through prongs
  - Effective at a distance
  - Non-lethal
8. **Expandable Batons:** Expandable batons can be easily carried in a retracted state and quickly extended when needed. They provide a strong, non-lethal defense option that can keep an attacker at bay.
- Key Features:**
- Retractable and portable
  - Strong, effective defense
  - Non-lethal
9. **Whistles:** Whistles are simple yet effective tools for drawing attention to your situation. A loud whistle can deter an attacker and alert others to your need for help.
- Key Features:**
- Loud, attention-grabbing sound
  - Small and easy to carry

- Simple to use

**10. Self-Defense Flashlights:** Self-defense flashlights serve a dual purpose: they illuminate dark areas and can be used to strike an attacker. Many models feature a strobe function to disorient an assailant.

**Key Features:**

- Illuminates and disorients
- Durable and multi-functional
- Easy to carry

**Conclusion:** Choosing the right non-lethal self-defense weapon depends on your personal preferences and lifestyle. Whether you prefer the compactness of pepper spray or the versatility of a tactical pen, there is a non-lethal option to suit your needs. By equipping yourself with one of these tools, you can enhance your personal safety without resorting to lethal force.

Stay safe, stay prepared, and remember that the best defense is one that protects both you and your potential attacker from lasting harm.