

Information provided by your police

# HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PICKPOCKETS



Wir wollen,  
dass Sie  
sicher leben.



Ihre Polizei

## TRICKS USED BY PICKPOCKETS

To remain undetected, pickpockets prefer busy places with many people such as public transport, bus stops, train stations, department stores, supermarkets and major events.

Thieves often work in teams: One distracts a victim for example by bumping into the victim, asking for information, help or money. Another team member takes advantage of this moment to quickly steal belongings from the bag or pocket and passes them on to a third person who slips away with it.

Pickpocketing tactics are manifold ranging from the „spilling something on people“ trick to the „bumping into people“ trick. This leaflet provides useful information on how you can protect yourself from theft by pickpockets.



Our short clips show  
how thieves operate



# THIS IS HOW THIEVES OPERATE



## Window tappers

While outside the train, they tap on the window of a train. An accomplice in the carriage of the train steals valuables from the distracted victim.



## Stallers

Stallers block the escalator and create a human traffic jam which stops their victim and others from moving forward. While all look ahead, an accomplice behind the victim reaches into their pocket or bag.

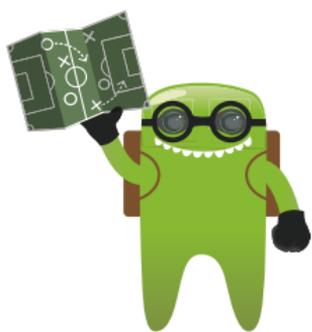


## Bumpers

They bump into their victim in a crowd or, acting with a co-thief, they „sandwich“ their victim. While the victim is distracted, a third person pickpockets the victim.

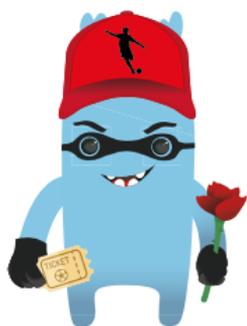


To the stop pickpockets campaign



### **False fans**

False fans ask the victim for example how to get to the stadium and show them a city map. While the victim tries to help and takes the map in both hands, they steal from the victim's handbag.



### **Flower givers**

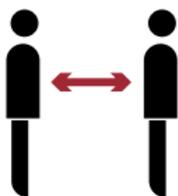
Flower givers greet their victim over-friendly, hugging and giving them a flower. While the victim is surprised and their attention is averted, the wallet or purse is removed.



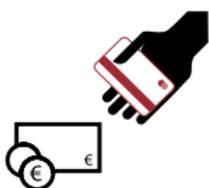
### **Spillers**

Pickpockets „accidentally“ spill something on their victim. While trying to clean the victim's clothes and making a lot of fuss and noise, they pick their pocket and the money is gone.

## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF



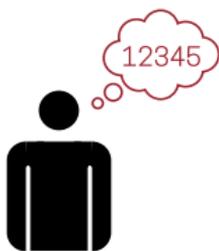
- › Do make sure that you keep a safe distance from strangers.



- › Do carry only as much money and payment cards as necessary.



- › Do carry cash and payment cards in closed inner pockets, as close to your body as possible.



- › Do keep credit and bank cards and pin code separately and ideally know your pin code by heart.



- › Do carry your bag with the opening side close to your body.



- › Do not leave bags and valuables (smartphone/laptop) unattended.



- › Do pay particular attention to your valuables and bags when you are in a crowd.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN IT HAPPENED TO YOU AFTER ALL?

- › If your payment card was stolen, please have it blocked immediately (call the emergency service number for blocking payment cards: 116 116). Please note that your card(s) can only be blocked via the above-mentioned emergency service number if your bank has joined the emergency service for blocking payment cards. Otherwise you make direct contact with your bank/credit institution.
- › You have to report theft of your debit card to the police so that your card can also be blocked for direct debiting transactions (SEPA direct debiting) for which only a signature and no pin code is needed. Only the police can arrange for what is known as a voluntary „KUNO blocking“ („KUNO-Sperrung“) with trading companies/businesses. It is only then that your card will be refused at shops when used to pay for goods by direct debiting.
- › In case your mobile phone has been stolen, please block the SIM card and the phone. In case you use your phone to access password-protected services (such as Paypal, e-mail account, etc.,) or social networks, change all passwords.
- › Report stolen identity documents to the local authorities issuing them. In case you have an identity card with online ID function, you need to have it blocked as soon as possible.

## Call emergency number 116 116

If your bank has not joined the system of having cards blocked by calling the number 116 116 and you are unable to contact your bank outside opening hours, you will find alternative numbers at [www.kartensicherheit.de](http://www.kartensicherheit.de) which you can call to block your card.

### ADVICE

It is important that you immediately report theft or loss to the police following the incident. Please take down the data and details of important documents and your mobile phone so that police can search for the items as soon as possible. Do keep the data and details as well as copies in a safe place. Please bear in mind that you can call the emergency number to block your payment cards, SIM cards and also identity documents with online ID function.

### Do keep a list of these numbers:

#### Telephone numbers

- › Police number in an emergency: 110
- › Central number for blocking cards: 116 116
- › My bank: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Cash cards

- › IBAN of debit card: \_\_\_\_\_
- › Bank: \_\_\_\_\_
- › Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_
- › Credit card issuer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Identity document

- › Identification number: \_\_\_\_\_
- › Issuing authority: \_\_\_\_\_

A PUBLICATION BY YOUR POLICE.

You can find further police advice at  
[www.polizei-beratung.de](http://www.polizei-beratung.de)



### Illustrations

Bundespolizei (Federal Police)

### Pictograms

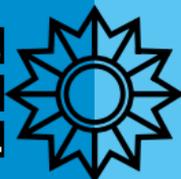
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