

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

BAG SEARCHES

You will often see signs outside of stores advising customers they may be asked to show the contents of their bags before to leaving the store.

Store owners have found this necessary due to more people shop lifting and hiding the goods they have stolen in their bags.

The store sign must be clearly seen by customers before they enter the shop.

If you don't agree with this store policy then you should not enter the store.

This is common practice now in Australia, so, if asked you just open your bag at the checkout, so that the operator can see inside. If you have things that you have bought from another store in your bag, just make sure you have the receipt available.

There are some rules - the trader can look in your bag but must not touch the contents or to put their hand into your bag.

A shop is private property so the trader does have the right to politely ask you to leave the store and refuse to sell you any goods if you do not want the bag to be checked.

The trader can call the police if there is reason to believe you have stolen goods from the store.

This information is provided as a guide only, and consumers are urged to contact Consumer Affairs for further information on their rights and responsibilities under the relevant Acts.

Consumer Affairs,

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