

HANDLING LAUNDRY CASH

ALWAYS THINK ABOUT SECURITY & SAFETY

Too many laundromat owners, be it for Coin or Card operations, become so used to handling coin and currency in their laundry, that they can become inured to the possible dangers they could face. Dealing with cash and coin in public is too much of a risk for any business person to take without proper precautions.

While incidents of personal attacks against owners or even employees of laundromats really are rare, we hear and read about it often enough that it should keep us alert. It takes so little extra effort to keep yourself safe, that being careless with your money really makes no sense at all.

The first rule is don't be predictable when you bank, count or collect. When criminals anticipate when and where you'll be with cash, it could mean you'll be in trouble.

Vary the time of day and days of the week that you collect. Let as few people as possible see you collect. Even those you trust can talk to others about the size of your collection. The less anyone knows about it, the safer you and your cash are.

Don't collect at night. If it is dark outside, you can be seen from the outside, but you may not see those who are watching you. In early morning hours, you can look out to notice anyone that appears interested in what you are doing.

As a rule, petty crooks and bandits are night people. Banking and collecting in the early morning gives you an extra level of protection because they, the crooks, are less active at that time.

If your personal schedule doesn't let you collect your laundry at times when no one else is around,

vary the time of day and day of the week. You may also "nibble" your collecting, by doing just a row or two at a time. That way it never looks like you're dealing with big sums of money at any one time.

Don't unload bills or drop coin in the changers at the same time you are handling other cash or coin. Don't do more than one change machine at a time. Don't drop coins in hoppers at the same time you take out bills. Do these steps separately, one at a time.

The purpose of doing this a step at a time is to minimize the amount of money you expose with each step of the coin and cash handling process. Also, the less time you spend at your changer, the less time the criminal types have to react and attack. Do your changer duties, if possible, when no one else is around.

Never count your coin or cash in public, and never leave your business, or ever go into your bank, carrying a money bag. That could be an invitation to an eventual robbery. When it's in a pocket or disguised in a tool box, or wrapped in a brown paper bag, it's less likely to draw unwanted attention. Carrying cash in the open is an invitation to bad guys, saying rob me.

Keep extra cash and coin in what is usually the safest spot in the laundry, your change or value transfer machine. If you have a safe at your laundry, never allow anyone see you go into it.

Being aware of safety and security is a great habit to have. It just takes practice. These few suggestions, if followed, will take you very little time to do. So do it!