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Pawn Shops, Police Team Up To Track Stolen Goods



Paducah, KY - Jason Meriss hopes the first break-in and theft at his Sherman Williams store will be the last. Back in November, two paint sprayers, a spray gun and some hoses turned up missing from the Paducah Store.

"I didn't expect to get that stuff back," Meriss told Local 6.

But it turns out recovering the stolen items were just a few clicks away. Paducah Police Sergeant Brian Laird says **LeadsOnline** is a tool that's has not only made headlines for local Police, but helped solve thousands of crimes across the nation. Pawn Shops use the system to record serial numbers and scan id's of people that pawn items.

William Crytes says he wasn't a fan at first, but now he's glad his shop is using the system.

"By doing so, people can feel comfortable when they come in shop they realize things they purchase or are looking to purchase are not hot anymore," said Crytes.

After a police report it didn't take long to find out who stole the paint supplies.

"We went to the pawn shop and verified the serial numbers with the initial report, verified the property," Laird explained. "Then we pulled those receipts, track the person down and they were charged," he added.

Police arrested and charged James Styers with two felony counts of theft. Staff says he'd been in the store a few days before. Now they are glad he's behind bars.

"We had a pretty good idea what happened, it was hard to prove but our suspicions were correct." said Meriss. "It took the police department and the database to confirm that," he added.

Fortunately the store kept detailed records of serial and model numbers and that's what police say you should do at home. Write down the information from things like TV's, computers, and outdoor equipment so if anything ends up stolen, you can give those numbers to police. Police say because jewelry is often mass produced, it's also a good idea to get those items engraved with special markings.

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