



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## Cannabis Retail Safety Tips

The Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) is aware of recent crimes against retailers in Washington State. While robberies are not exclusive to cannabis retailers, there are inherent risks cash-only businesses have that can make them targets. Below are safety suggestions retailers can consider to help keep themselves and their employees safe.

### Suggestions to increase safety include:

- Review, enhance or develop a security plan and train all employees on the security procedures.
- Use “drop safes” and put up prominent signs stating employees cannot open the safe.
- Minimize the amount of cash in the cash register.
- Utilize compliant cashless systems (see DFI website for list of financial institutions <https://dfi.wa.gov/cannabis>)
- Put up prominent signs stating that video surveillance is in use.
- Display empty product packaging on shelves and in cases. Actual product transfers can occur through a secure window to a back room where real products are stored.
- Have an initial entry area separated by a security door that opens into the retail area.
- Train employees to be good witnesses – this can include listening for names, speech inflection / accent, small details (i.e. tattoos, scars, etc.) that may not be visible on camera.
- Ask a security company to assess your facility vulnerabilities.
- Ensure adequate outdoor, parking lot, and entryway lighting.

### Additional options available for your license:

- Temporary Discontinuance of Business

If you need to temporarily stop business operations in order to facilitate a move to a new location, a temporary discontinued business authorization may be granted. Please reach out to your assigned officer with this request so they can help you with that process

- Floor Plan Alterations

Small changes to floor plans such as changing cameras or points of sale, adding or adjusting rooms walls and/or doors can be approved quickly through a new process with the LCB's Licensing Customer Service team.

The form can be accessed at <https://lcb.wa.gov/mjlicense/cannabis-licensing> and **there is no fee associated with these changes.**

**Special Note:** The LCB does not have emergency response authority or jurisdiction for a criminal investigation related to burglaries and/or robberies. Please review your safety and emergency response plans with your employees, including calling 911 to report suspicious activities or any attempted burglary or robbery.

Enforcement and Education Officers and Cannabis Consultants are available to answer questions and provide support along the way. Please reach out to your Cannabis Consultant or Enforcement Officer if you have any questions or concerns.