Security tags play a crucial role in protecting retail merchandise and preventing theft. These small devices are typically attached to clothing items and other valuable products in stores. They contain electronic components or ink that trigger alarms if not deactivated at the checkout counter. The primary purpose of security tags is to deter shoplifting and minimize losses for retailers. However, situations may arise where security tags are accidentally left on purchased items, causing inconvenience to customers. Removing tags without proper authorization is against the law and unethical. We encourage responsible conduct and remind readers to ensure they have the right to remove the tag before proceeding. If you encounter a situation where a security tag has been left on a newly purchased item, it is crucial to act responsibly and lawfully. So, you need to remove the security tag at that moment. When attempting to remove a security tag from clothes at home, you might need a few tools and materials to make the process easier. Keep in mind that some methods may require more specialized tools than others. Here's a list of common tools and materials that might be helpful: Rubber Bands: Used for creating friction and pressure to force the pin out of the security tag. Screwdriver: A small flat-head screwdriver can be used to pry open the tag or create leverage to remove the pin. Magnets: A strong magnet may help deactivate or unlock certain types of security tags. Needle-Nose Pliers: Useful for gripping the pin of the security tag and gently twisting or pulling it to loosen the tag. Freezer: If you choose the freezing method, you'll need access to a freezer to expose the tag to cold temperatures. Plastic Bag: Required if using the freezing method to prevent moisture from affecting the clothing. Hammer: In some cases, a hammer or another hard object might be needed to strike the security tag and attempt to loosen it. Protective Gear: Depending on the method you choose, wearing gloves or protective eyewear might be necessary to prevent injury. Safety Pins or Clips: If the security tag is interfering with the functionality of the clothing, using safety pins or clips to temporarily secure it might be helpful. Cloth or Towel: To protect the clothing from scratches or damage when using tools like screwdrivers or pliers. Step-by-Step Guide to Removing Security Tags Here's a comprehensive step-by-step guide to removing security tags using the methods mentioned: The rubber band method involves wrapping rubber bands tightly around the security tag's pin, creating friction and pressure. By twisting and pulling the tag, the pin may loosen, allowing for removal. Caution and patience are essential to avoid damaging the clothing during the process. The magnet method relies on using a strong magnet against the security tag to deactivate or unlock it. By holding the magnet close to the tag's locking mechanism and gently pulling or twisting the tag, the magnetic force may release the pin. Keep the magnet steady and maintain direct contact with the tag throughout the process. Note that not all security tags can be deactivated with magnets, so this method may not work in all cases. Freezing the security tag involves placing the tagged item in a sealed plastic bag and then placing it in the freezer for several hours. The cold temperature makes the tag's locking mechanism more brittle. After freezing, quickly remove the item and attempt to twist or pull the tag to loosen the pin. Exercise caution to avoid damaging the clothing. However, this method may not work on all security tags, and using it on delicate fabrics should be done with care. Hitting the security tag involves using a hammer or a hard object to strike the tag directly on the pin. The goal is to apply enough force to potentially release the locking mechanism. However, this method is risky and may cause damage to both the tag and the clothing. It should be used as a last resort, and caution must be exercised to prevent injury or irreversible harm to the item. Seeking professional assistance is advisable if this method is not successful. Using needle-nose pliers to remove a security tag involves gently inserting the pliers' thin, pointed tip between the base of the tag and the pin. With careful maneuvering, grip the pin and wiggle and twist it to loosen the tag. Exercise caution to avoid damaging the clothing and work patiently to achieve successful removal. Seek professional help or contact the retailer if unsure or encountering difficulties. You can consider removing a security tag from clothes at home under specific circumstances. However, it's crucial to emphasize that attempting to remove security tags without proper authorization or ownership is illegal and unethical. Before proceeding, always ensure that you have the right to remove the tag. Here are the situations when you might consider removing a security tag at home: Sometimes, store employees might forget to remove the security tag at the checkout counter. If you have the receipt and proof of purchase, you can attempt to remove the tag at home to avoid the hassle of returning to the store. Time constraints, or any other valid reason, you may consider attempting to remove the security tag at home. However, always try to contact the store first and seek their guidance before proceeding. In some cases, you might lose the receipt or proof of purchase, but you genuinely own the item. If you are unable to obtain a duplicate receipt, you might consider removing the tag at home. However, be aware of the legal risks associated with this situation. If the return policy has expired, and you still have the security tag on the item, you might decide to remove it at home. Again, ensure you have proper ownership and are not attempting to circumvent the retailer's security tags off clothing that you purchased online, and the retailer wants to avoid additional shipping costs or if they offer remote tag removal services. Using electromagnets or burning tags to remove security tags poses significant risks. Applying excessive force with electro-magnets can cause damage to the tag, and clothing, or even lead to injuries. Attempting to burn tags can result in fires, hazardous fumes, and damage to clothing. Both methods are highly discouraged due to their potential dangers and should be avoided entirely. Seek safer and approved methods to remove security tags to protect yourself and your belongings. Troubleshooting and tips for removing security tags at home The legal risks associated with this situation. If the return policy has expired, and you still decide to remove it at home. Again, ensure you have proper ownership and are not attempting to circumvent the retailer may provide you with authorization to remove the security tag at home. This might occur if you've purchased the item online, and the retailer wants to avoid additional shipping costs or if they offer remote tag removal services. Using electromagnets or burning tags to remove security tags poses significant risks. Applying excessive force with electro-magnets can cause damage to the tag, and clothing, or even lead to injuries. Attempting to burn tags can result in fires, hazardous fumes, and damage to clothing. Both methods are highly discouraged due to their potential dangers and should be avoided entirely. Seek safer and approved methods to remove security tags to protect yourself and your belongings. Troubleshooting and tips for removing security tags at home doesn't work, consider trying another that might be better suited for the specific tag type. Be Patient: Removing security tags can be a delicate process. Take your time and avoid rushing, as applying excessive force can damage the clothing or make the removal process more challenging. Protect the Clothing: Use a cloth or towel to protect the clothing from scratches or damage when using tools like screwdrivers or pliers. Check for Damage: After attempting to remove the tag, inspect the clothing for any signs of damage. If you notice any, stop immediately to prevent further harm. Reach Out for Help: If you encounter difficulties or are unsure about the process, seek professional assistance or contact the retailer for guidance. Legal Considerations: Ensure you have proper ownership or authorization before attempting to remove security tags. Removing tags without permission may have legal consequences. Avoid Dangerous Methods: Steer clear of using electro-magnets or burning tags, as these methods can be hazardous and pose risks to your safety and the clothing. Retailer Assistance: When in doubt, return to the store or contact the retailer for tag removal. They have the expertise and tools to handle the process safely. Online Purchases: If you made an online purchase, some retailers offer remote tag removal services. Inquire about this option if applicable. Prevention for Future: Double-check for security tags before leaving the store and retain your receipts to avoid such issues in the future. If all else fails and you are unable to remove the security tag from your clothing at home, there are some steps you can take: Reach out to the retailer where you purchased the item and explain the situation. They might be able to offer guidance or schedule a visit to a nearby store for tag removal. Look for specialized tag removal services in your area. Many security companies or anti-theft device manufacturers provide such services. If possible, return to the store where you made the purchase and explain the issue to the staff. They may be able to remove the tag or provide a solution. If you misplaced the receipt, try to obtain a duplicate or digital copy as proof of purchase before contacting the retailer. If you believe the retailer's actions are preventing you from removing the tag or if you are facing issues with proof of ownership, consult with legal professionals to understand your rights and potential solutions. Avoid attempting extreme or risky methods that might cause damage to the clothing or pose a safety hazard. Is it legal to remove security tags at home? Removing security tags without proper authorization may be illegal and unethical. Ensure you have the right to remove the tag or seek assistance from the retailer. Which method is the safest for removing security tags at home? The rubber band method or using needle-nose pliers with caution are generally considered safer options. However, always prioritize safety and avoid risky methods like using electro-magnets or burning tags. Can I use any magnet to remove security tags? Not all security tags can be deactivated with magnets. If attempting the magnet method, use a strong magnet and ensure it is placed close to the locking mechanism for the best chance of success. What if none of the methods work? If you are unable to remove the security tag at home, consider seeking professional tag removal services or contacting the retailer for assistance. The process of removing security tags from clothes at home requires caution, responsibility, and adherence to legal and ethical guidelines. While this guide has explored various methods like rubber bands, magnets, and freezing techniques, it is essential to remember that attempting tag removal without proper authorization is illegal. The purpose of security tags is to protect retailers from theft and losses, and respecting their use is essential. We encourage readers to prioritize seeking assistance from retailers or professional tag removal services when necessary. Let us all act responsibly, respecting ownership, and ensuring the integrity of the retail system while enjoying our shopping experiences. Most stores put security tags on the items they sell to prevent shoplifting. These security tags will activate if you leave the store with them still attached. However, during busy periods, the personnel may forget to remove the security tags off the clothes you purchase.Or you ordered dresses online, and when they arrived, the security tags were still on. It can be challenging to remove these bags, and if you are not careful, you may damage the clothes. Worry no more. We will give you some methods for eliminating security tags off clothing.What are security tags?A security tag is a small signal transmitter that firms attach to their products, particularly clothing. If someone tries to steal the item and passes through the exit without paying or removing the tag, the tag will sound like an alert.Most products that have security tags in them are items of clothing, accessories, and books. The security tag is applied using a pin that passes through the fabric of the goods in the case of apparel and soft items. After that, the pin is locked into the security tag.There are two types of security tags used by businesses- mechanical locks and magnetic locks. There is a wide range of magnetic lock strengths to choose from. The higher the magnetic power, the harder it is to remove the tag.If you're trying to remove a security tag on your own, you'll need the right tools. Security tags come in several shapes, including circular, cube, and pencil. Studies suggest that circular tags are the most difficult to remove.Mechanical security tagsMechanical tags are the easiest to remove. These tags use pins or other mechanical fasteners to attach them to the clothes. There are various ways to remove these mechanical tags but we will talk about later in this article.Magnetic security tagsMagnetic security tags are the most complicated and most difficult to get rid of. You need the right tools to demagnetize them. Trying to remove them without knowing the right way can damage the clothes permanently. Ink security tagsInk tags are the less commonly used tags because it is pretty costly. The ink is placed inside a small glass tube that might spill if you open it with too much force. Some ink tags are transparent, meaning you can see the ink inside, so you'll know that it is an ink tag.However, some ink tags don't have a window to show the ink. In that case, treat the tag as an ink tag and be careful when you try to remove it. Just always remember to follow the instructions on the label to avoid spilling the ink into the clothes.Removing security tags using a rubber bandStep 1 – Make sure that the tag's ink cartridge is facing down. The ink cartridge is the portion of the tag that protrudes out of the plastic tag. It is found on the opposite side of the pin.Step 2 – Pull the tag out away from the clothes. As far away as you can get it, so the item doesn't harm your clothes as much if the sensor fails.Step 3 – Wrap a rubber band around the pin of the security tag and secure it in place. Rubber bands that are broad and thick enough to be sturdy but still thin enough to wrap around a pin are good fits for this task. This will help in loosening the pin.Step 4 – You hold the bigger part of the ink tag using only one hand. Using your other hand, remove the pin. The pins should enough pressure such that the tag's ink cartridge is facing down. The ink cartridge is the portion of the tag. Do this again if the first rubber band doesn't loosen it enough.Removing security tags using a screwdriverA screwdriver with a flat end can be used to remove security tags off clothing in your home.Step 1 – Make sure that the ink cartridge is facing up while placing the clothing on a flat surface. Underneath the squared-pyramid cartridge, slip a thin flathead screwdriver and slide it around.Step 2 – Firmly press the screwdriver under the cartridge. This should pierce and pull up the plastic. Using the screwdriver, push the handle down so the perimeter pops up off the plastic.Step 3 – After removing the ink cartridge, you should notice a silver paper lining covering a metal plate beneath it. Take off the silver paper.Step 4 – Lift the metal arms with the screwdriver. Take the pin and pull it away from the tag.Removing security tags through freezingStep 1 – Another way to get rid of the security tags from clothes is by placing them in a freezer. After freezing, take the clothes off and let them rest for at least an hour before you start to remove the tag.Step 2 – You can also use available home tools you have, like pliers or scissors, to remove them. You can also proceed with the rubber band method if you do not have pliers or scissors available. Freezing the tag makes it safer because you are assured that it won't spill as the ink is frozen.Removing security tags using needle nose pliersStep 1 – Place the clothing on the surface with the ink cartridge facing upward.Step 2 – Using a set of pliers, grasp one side of the rectangular tag.Step 3 – Use a new pair of pliers to grab the tag on the other side.Step 4 – Using the pliers, gently bend the tag down on both ends. Be careful not to bend it so hard because doing so may cause the ink to spill.Step 5 – Keep bending until it slams open, then stop. Make sure you pull on the tab to loosen it.Removing security tags by hitting the tagStep 1 – Repeatedly yank the tag away from the clothing to dislodge the pin.Step 2 – Get hold of a big nail. It is recommended that the head of the nail be at least as wide as a penny for the nail to fit correctly.Step 3 – Remove the tag from the garment by pulling it out. Keep the tag's long plastic end out of the way.Step 4 – Open the ink cartridge by applying pressure on it. To open the ink cartridge, gently tap it on a hard surface several times. To get it properly, you might have to hit it twenty or more times. The tag can burst open if you hit it too hard, so be careful.Removing security tags using forkAs your appear impossible, but two forks are all that are required to remove the security tag.Step 1 – Take two forks and insert them on either side of the tags to accomplish this.Step 2 – To open it, pull them in the opposite direction until the tag strategically pops off is readily separated from the rest of the tag. Do this again if the first rubber band doesn't loosen it enough.Removing security tags using a screwdriverA screwdriver with a flat end can be used to remove security tags off clothing in your home.Step 1 – Make sure that the tag is facing up while placing the clothing on the surface with the ink cartridge facing upward.Step 2 – Using pliers, start by removing the melted plastic portion to remove the spring connected to the base cylinder.Step 3 – Then you'll notice a needle encased by a ball bearing. Gently remove the needle.How to remove security tag with a powerful magnetElectromagnetic devices are used to disable many security tags in-store. Make use of a powerful magnet to remove them from your home. Lay the tag on top of the magnet with the ink cartridge or dome facing down. Once the tag has been disabled, you should hear a sound. For instance, if you're using a security tag that has a circle on the back, you may need to simply pull the pin out.[2] Advertisement 1 Freeze the garment with the ink tag. Freeze the garment overnight for best results.2 move.Breaking the pin is as simple as repeatedly bending it back and forth until it finally snaps.Step 2 –Pull the tag straight back until the pin comes out of the hole. Remove the tag off the clothing.Removing electro-magnets tags using a knifeStep 1 – Use a lighter to burn the tag's dome-shaped region. After a few seconds of exposure to heat, the plastic will almost likely catch fire.Step 2 – Cut the dome into pieces with a knife or similar tool. A spring and tag will almost entirely pop out as you continue scraping.In ConclusionThis post on security tags should have given you a better understanding of removing them without the need for any special tools. We hope this helps! To avoid the possibility of destroying an expensive piece of clothing, you can go to the store where it was purchased and produce the receipt. Don't use any of the following methods to shoplift because it's illegal.Jessica Oliver is a fashion enthusiast with more than ten years of experience in the industry. She previously managed her own clothing store in New York before becoming a mother of three. With a passion for sustainability and a desire to share clothing care and recycling tips. Security tags are a common feature on retail items to deter theft. These tags can be challenging to remove, leading to frustration for customers who accidentally forget to have them removed before leaving the store. In this article, we will provide you with a step-by-step guide on how to take off a security tag at home safely and easily. Understanding Security Tags Image source: Google.com Before attempting to remove a security tag, it is essential to understand how they work. Most security tags have a metal pin that attaches to the item and a locking mechanism that secures the pin in place. The locking mechanism can be either magnetic or mechanical, and attempting to remove the tag without deactivating the mechanism can trigger an alarm or damage the item. Materials Needed To remove a security tag at home, you will need the following materials: Rubber gloves Pliers Screwdriver Knife Hammer Step-by-Step Guide Put on rubber gloves to avoid injuring yourself while removing the tag. Locate the locking mechanism on the security tag. It is usually located at the back of the tag and can be either magnetic or mechanical. If the locking mechanism is magnetic, place the tag on a magnetic surface, such as a refrigerator or a metal table. This will neutralize the magnet and allow you to remove the tag easily. If the locking mechanism is mechanical, use a pair of pliers to hold the pin in place while using a screwdriver to pry the locking mechanism open. Be careful not to damage the item. If the locking mechanism is particularly stubborn, use a knife to cut through the locking mechanism. If all else fails, use a hammer to strike the locking mechanism until it breaks open. This should be a last resort and may damage the item. Safety Precautions When removing security tags at home, it is essential to take the necessary safety precautions to avoid injury or damage to the item. Always wear rubber gloves to avoid injuring yourself while handling the tag, and be careful not to damage the item when using an unusual means to remove the tag, seek the help of a professional. Conclusion Removing a security tag at home can be a frustrating experience, but with the right tools and techniques, it can be done safely and easily. By following the step-by-step guide outlined in this article, you can remove a security tag without triggering an alarm or damaging the item. 1 Place the ink cartridge of the tag face-down. The ink cartridge is the part of the tag that juts out of the plastic. It is on the opposite side of the pin, which is the round part of the tag. 2 Pull the part of the clothing Move it as far away as possible so the item doesn't ruin the clothing as much if the sensor cracks. Advertisement 3 Slip a rubber band around the pin of the security tag. The rubber band should be large and thick enough to be strong, but thin enough to fit around the pin. This will loosen the pin. 4 Hold the larger part of the ink tag with one hand. 5 Pull the pin out with the other hand. The pressure of the pins should be strong enough so that the pin eventually pops off or easily pulls apart from the rest of the tag. If the rubber band didn't loosen it enough, try again with multiple rubber bands. Advertisement 1 Place the item of clothing on the floor with the ink cartridge facing up. 2 Take a very thin flathead screwdriver and place it along the edge of the raised square pyramid. 3 Press down hard. This should pierce the plastic and pull it up. 4 Continue to pop up the perimeter of the plastic. 5 Remove the silver paper lining. You'll be able to see the metal plate below it. 6 Use the screwdriver to lift one of the metal arms that holds the pin in place. 7 Slide the pin away from the tag. The pin should easily slide through the now-free hole and the tag should be removed. Advertisement 1 Find a high-powered magnet. You can use a hard drive magnet or a rare earth magnet since most tags are deactivated in stores with electromagnetic devices. 2 Place the dome side of the tag against the magnet.[1] 3 Pull the magnet away from the tag. The two parts of the tag should separate. If they don't separate on their own, apply a little force. For instance, if you're using a security tag that has a pin on the back, you may need to simply pull the pin out.[2] Advertisement 1 Freeze the garment with the ink tag. Freeze the garment overnight for best results. 2 Rip open the tag. You can just use your hands, pliers, or the rubber band method. This will ensure that the ink won't spill everywhere if you make a mistake – ink can't spill if it's frozen. Advertisement 1 Gently pull the tag away from the clothing a few times. Do this ten or so times, until it loosens the pin a bit. 2 Find a large nail. The nail head should be bigger than the tag, and the head of the nail should be at least as wide as a penny. 3 Pull the tag away from the clothing. Hold the long plastic part of the tag to the side. 4 Hit down on the ink cartridge until it pops open. Without applying too much force, repeatedly strike down on the ink cartridge until it pops open. You may have to hit it twenty or more times to get it right. Be careful not to hit it too hard, or the tag will be more likely to burst open. Advertisement 1 Hold the security tag with the ink cartridge side up. 2 Grip one of the sides of the rectangular tag with a pair of pliers. 3 Grip the other side of the tag with a different pair of pliers. 4 Gently bend each side of the tag using the pliers. Don't bend too hard or the tag will crack in half and spill ink everywhere. 5 Keep bending until it pops open. This should loosen the pin and make it pop off. 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To remove them at home, use a high-powered magnet, such as a hard drive magnet. Place the magnet on a flat surface and lay the tag on top of it with the ink dome or cartridge facing down. You should hear a click letting you know the tag has deactivated. Wiggle the pins in the tag up and down to release them. Question Can I remove the tag by cutting the wire? wikiHow Staff Editor Staff Answer This answer was written by one of our trained team of researchers who validated it for accuracy and comprehensiveness. Most security tags have 1 or more pins securing the cartridge to the body of the tag. You may be able to cut the wire if you can manage to get a wire cutter between the 2 halves of the tag, but these pins are thick and may be difficult to cut. Another option is to use a Dremel tool, but either method could damage your garment. Question Do these tags set off the alarms at the door? Quite often, yes, they are designed to set off an alarm, but this isn't the case in every store. See more answers Ask a Question Advertisement Thanks Helpful 36 Not Helpful 22 Thanks Helpful 31 Not Helpful 2 Thanks Helpful 25 Not Helpful 16 Show More Tips Advertisement Thin, flathead screwdriver. Hammer Both hands (or a friend!) A sharp knife can be used in place of the screwdriver as it is easier to just cut the plastic pyramid off rather than pry it off High-powered magnet Reviewed by: Freelance Fashion Stylist This article was reviewed by Melissa Young. Melissa Young is a Freelance Fashion Stylist based in Atlanta, Georgia. With over 10 years of professional experience, Melissa's objective is to elevate people's confidence and comfort through the power of fashion. Her professional background is in commercial styling and she has extensive experience in styling for editorial, television, and film. She has styled for brands including Diageo Crown Royal, Hilton Hotels, IHG Hotels, and Getty Images, and has been featured in several publications, including PUMP Magazine, Moevir Magazine, and Upscale Magazine. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of South Carolina. This article has been viewed 10,459,763 times. Co-authors: 66 Updated: March 20, 2025 Views: 10,459,763 Categories: Fashion Fixes Article SummaryXIf you brought an item of clothing home from the store only to find that the security tag is still attached, don't fret. There are a few different ways to get those tags off without damaging your items. If it's an ink tag, hold the larger part of the tag, which contains the ink cartridge, facing down. Pull it as far away from the surface of the clothing as possible so you don't accidentally get ink on it if the cartridge breaks. Wrap a rubber band around the pin that holds the tag in place. This will help loosen the pin. Grab the larger side of the tag with one hand and the smaller part with the other, then firmly pull the two sides apart. If it still isn't loose enough, try wrapping a few more rubber bands around the pin. If you don't have any rubber bands, hold the cartridge facing up and carefully pry off the pyramid-shaped cap with a flat-head screwdriver. Peel off the foil seal underneath, then use the screwdriver to pry off the metal plate that holds the pin in place. Then, you should be able to simply slide the cartridge up off the pin and release the tag. Whichever method you use, it can also be helpful to put the garment in the freezer overnight to freeze the ink so it doesn't spill when you pull off the tag. If you're dealing with an electromagnetic tag instead of an ink tag, you may be able to get it off with brute force. Wedge something between the tag and the head of the pin holding it in place, such as the edge of a flathead screwdriver. Grab the tag and wiggle it back and forth until the pin breaks, then break open the tag and pull it off. If you have a powerful magnet, such as a hard drive magnet, you can also try laying the tag flat on top of it. Listen for a clicking sound as the tag deactivates, then gently wiggle it free from the pins to release it from your garment. For more tips, including how to remove a security tag using rubber bands or pliers, read on! Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 10,459,763 times. "I wasn't sure what type I had. I tried a neodymium magnet. It didn't work. It wasn't magnetic. So I froze it, and it failed at the rubber band method. But bending it just a little with pliers worked easily. I'll use that method if this happens in the future."..." more Share your story 1 Place the ink cartridge of the tag face-down. The ink cartridge is the part of the tag that juts out of the plastic. 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See more answers Ask a Question Advertisement Thanks Helpful 36 Not Helpful 22 Thanks Helpful 31 Not Helpful 2 Thanks Helpful 25 Not Helpful 16 Show More Tips Advertisement Thin, flathead screwdriver. Hammer Both hands (or a friend!) A sharp knife can be used in place of the screwdriver as it is easier to just cut the plastic pyramid off rather than pry it off High-powered magnet Reviewed by: Freelance Fashion Stylist This article was reviewed by Melissa Young. Melissa Young is a Freelance Fashion Stylist based in Atlanta, Georgia. With over 10 years of professional experience, Melissa's objective is to elevate people's confidence and comfort through the power of fashion. Her professional background is in commercial styling and she has extensive experience in styling for editorial, television, and film. She has styled for brands including Diageo Crown Royal, Hilton Hotels, IHG Hotels, and Getty Images, and has been featured in several publications, including PUMP Magazine, Moevir Magazine, and Upscale Magazine. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of South Carolina. This article has been viewed 10,459,763 times. Co-authors: 66 Updated: March 20, 2025 Views: 10,459,763 Categories: Fashion Fixes Article SummaryXIf you brought an item of clothing home from the store only to find that the security tag is still attached, don't fret. There are a few different ways to get those tags off without damaging your items. If it's an ink tag, hold the larger part of the tag, which contains the ink cartridge, facing down. Pull it as far away from the surface of the clothing as possible so you don't accidentally get ink on it if the cartridge breaks. Wrap a rubber band around the pin that holds the tag in place. This will help loosen the pin. Grab the larger side of the tag with one hand and the smaller part with the other, then firmly pull the two sides apart. If it still isn't loose enough, try wrapping a few more rubber bands around the pin. If you don't have any rubber bands, hold the cartridge facing up and carefully pry off the pyramid-shaped cap with a flat-head screwdriver. Peel off the foil seal underneath, then use the screwdriver to pry off the metal plate that holds the pin in place. Then, you should be able to simply slide the cartridge up off the pin and release the tag. Whichever method you use, it can also be helpful to put the garment in the freezer overnight to freeze the ink so it doesn't spill when you pull off the tag. If you're dealing with an electromagnetic tag instead of an ink tag, you may be able to get it off with brute force. Wedge something between the tag and the head of the pin holding it in place, such as the edge of a flathead screwdriver. Grab the tag and wiggle it back and forth until the pin breaks, then break open the tag and pull it off. If you have a powerful magnet, such as a hard drive magnet, you can also try laying the tag flat on top of it. Listen for a clicking sound as the tag deactivates, then gently wiggle it free from the pins to release it from your garment. For more tips, including how to remove a security tag using rubber bands or pliers, read on! Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 10,459,763 times. "I wasn't sure what type I had. I tried a neodymium magnet. It didn't work. It wasn't magnetic. So I froze it, and it failed at the rubber band method. But bending it just a little with pliers worked easily. I'll use that method if this happens in the future."..." more Share your story Accidentally left with a security tag? You're not alone. Many people have found themselves at home with a newly purchased item still tagged, facing the frustrating question—how do I remove it safely and without damage? While it might be tempting to take immediate action with pliers or scissors, making the wrong ghostwriter hausarbeitcan cause permanent damage to your clothing or, worse yet, a spill of ink from certain tags. This guide will walk you through the most common solutions make when attempting to remove security tags at home and offer actionable advice to avoid them. By the end, you'll feel confident managing the situation efficiently and safely. Why Are Security Tags Challenging? Security tags are designed specifically to deter theft, and they're built in a way that makes removal without the proper tools difficult. Many tags feature locking mechanisms that require special devices to unlock them, while others contain ink that releases upon tampering, rendering the garment unusable. Understanding the challenges of security tags is the first step toward removing them without damaging your item. Let's explore the mistakes to avoid so you can approach the task with care and confidence. Using Excessive Force It's common for people to grab the nearest pair of pliers and attempt to force the tag open. While this approach might seem straightforward, it's rarely effective and often backfires. Here's why you should avoid it: Risk of tearing the fabric: Pulling too hard can lead to stretched or ripped fabric, especially if the tag is attached to delicate materials like silk or wool. Triggering ink spills: Many security tags contain ink that will burst if the tag is improperly handled. This can not only ruin your garment but also stain surrounding surfaces. What to Do Instead Assess the tag: Inspect the type of security tag before trying to remove it. Another option is to use a Dremel tool, but either method could damage your garment. Seek professional help: Sometimes, the safest and most efficient course of action is to take the item and your receipt back to the store. Store staff have the proper tools and expertise to remove the tag without risk. Feel safe with ADT. The security services that you will get from professional security companies are as follows: Contact us at 877-470-7879 to speak to a specialist and get a no-obligation quote. Have you ever come home from a shopping trip and found a security tag still attached to your purchase? It's a common issue that can be frustrating.But don't worry; removing a security tag at home is possible and doesn't have to be a hassle. Okayreview guide will show several safe and easy methods to remove security tags.Whether using household items or simple tools, you'll learn how to handle this task without needing to make a trip back to the store.Let's dive into the steps to remove security tags and enjoy your new purchase without obstacles.Security Tags and Their Purpose in RetailIn retail stores, security tags play a crucial role in preventing theft. These small devices, attached to various items, are designed to set off alarms if someone tries to leave the store without paying.Each anti-theft strategy is essential for retailers to protect their merchandise, especially in high-traffic stores.Security tags come in different types, each with a unique mechanism. The most common ones are mechanical, magnetic, and ink-based.Mechanical security are easier to remove, while magnetic tags require specific tools to deactivate. Ink tags contain dye that can spill and stain the product if tampered with improperly.The main goal of these tags is to deter shoplifting. When you purchase an item, the cashier removes the tag.However, sometimes they might be missed to remember, leaving you to remove security tag at home. It's important to do this carefully to avoid damaging your purchase or the right way to remove security tags not only saves you a trip back to the store but also keeps your new items in perfect condition.How to Remove Security Tag Easily?Removing a security tag at home can be simple if you know the right steps. Before proceeding to remove security tag, take a look at the tips below for security tags.Applying too much force can damage your clothing.Especially when using tools or dealing with stubborn sharp edges.To ensure the tag remains brittle and easier to break.Not all magnets are strong enough for this task.Some methods may take a little time to work.Now we can proceed to the ways; here's how to do it without damaging your clothes:1. Using a Rubber BandThe rubber band method is easy and safe. By wrapping the band tightly around the pin, you create tension.This tension gradually loosens the mechanism inside the tag, allowing it to release from the garment.Here's how to do it,Choose a strong, wide rubber band.Position the rubber band around the pin part of the security tag.Keep twisting the rubber band.This applies pressure and loosens the pin, eventually freeing the tag from the garment.2. Using a ScrewdriverThe screwdriver method requires careful prying.Slide the screwdriver under the edge of the tag and gently lift.This action usually pops open the tag without damaging the fabric.Here's the procedure,A small or medium-sized one works best.Insert the screwdriver's tip under the edge of the tag.Gently lever the screwdriver to pop open the tag. Be careful not to damage the fabric.3. Using the Freezing MethodFreezing makes the tag brittle, making it easier to break.4. Using Needle Nose PliersNeedle nose pliers are perfect for getting a good grip on the tag.Gently bending it backward weakens the tag's hold, allowing you to remove the tag and twist. This can pop open the tag without harming your clothing.Here's how to do itA fork or a pair of scissors can work.Insert the tool between the halves of the tag.Gently twist the tool to pry the tag open.What to Do If Methods Fail?If you've tried removing a security tag and it's not working, don't worry. There are still options to consider.Here's what you can do:Visit the Store: The simplest solution is to return to where you bought the item. Bring your receipt. The staff there have the tools to remove security tag safely.Contact Customer Service: If going back to the store isn't possible, call their customer service. Explain the situation. They might offer a solution or ask you to return the item for tag removal.Try a Different Store: Sometimes, another store of the same chain can help. They often have the same tag-removal tools.Be Careful with DIY Attempts: If you're considering trying another DIY method to remove security tag, be cautious. Avoid methods that could damage the item or hurt you.Check for a Local Seamstress or Tailor: Some local tailors or sewists might have experience with these tags. They could help you remove it if you're careful.Avoid Forceful Methods: Don't try to cut or smash the tag. This could release ink from ink tags or damage your item.Bottom LineSo, there you have it! With patience and the right tools, you can easily remove security tag at home. Just remember, the key is to be gentle and careful.We want to keep your new clothes looking great, right? So, let's avoid any methods that might harm your outfit or lead to an injury.Happy tag removal! Outlines how to remove security tags from clothes when the store has forgotten to remove them, the different types and how to remove each one.It's happened to us all at least once. You buy an item of clothing and when you get home, you find the store assistant has forgotten to remove the security tag — and you certainly can't wear your purchase with the tag still attached!Or, as happened to a friend of ours last week, you order something online (in this case from Macys) and it arrives with a security tag. Now, given our friend lives about 100 miles from the closest Macys, the customer service's solution to "bring it into the store and we'll remove it" just doesn't work.This is where you need to know how to remove a security tag off clothes — without ruining the garment.How to pick a lockThese are usually found in a small glass tube that breaks if the label is opened with force. Since this security is expensive and also involves the risk that a large amount of goods will be spoiled if it is accidentally triggered, these types of security tags are rarer than the other kinds.Many ink tags will have small coloured windows showing the ink — or in some cases, colored powder — but there are some that don't have the windows. It's best to treat the tag as an ink tag if in doubt, and be careful when trying to remove it.If it is accidentally triggered, they have to be demagnetised to remove them. However, this is not impossible if you have a large magnet.This is usually a mechanical tag with ink in a small glass tube that breaks if the label is opened with force.Take a photo of the receipt and then phone customer service and explain to them while you are on the phone (they are usually quite happy to give you the email address). Or you can contact them via live chat, if they have it, and upload the photo of the receipt while you are talking to them. Also take a photo of the security tag, so they can identify which type it is — it is not unknown for stores to use more than one type.If under no circumstances can you take the garment back to the store, these methods for how to take off security tags from clothes.Sometimes the security label is attached to the cleaning label. If you are lucky, this is the case with your item… take a pair of scissors and cut off the cleaning instructions.If the label is attached to the sleeve, use nail scissors or a quickunpick sewing tool to carefully cut the stitches of the seam. Remove the label and then sew the garment back together. If the anti-theft protection is attached in a place that cannot be cut open under any circumstances, the removal becomes much more complicated. It's worth trying with a magnet first in case it is a magnetised tag. Since it is sometimes impossible to tell with the naked eye what type of label it is, you must first prepare also as if the tag is an ink label.Freeze the garment for 24 hours to harden the ink solid. After 24 hours, take it out of the freezer compartment. But that doesn't help very much with colored powder.If you think it might be a coloured powder tag, it's best to also protect the garment from the powder.Let a second person assist you in the subsequent attempt, with this method for how to take off a security tag. One person moves the magnet over the security label, the other tries to open it with pliers at the same time.In another method with a magnet, place it on the table and position the tag bottom side down on it until it click. Manipulate the pin up and down, and it should come out.Freeze the garment and protect it with plastic as described above. Then add a second protective layer of aluminum foil over the plastic. Use a lighter or kitchen torch CAREFULLY to melt the tip part of the cone on the ink tag. It should take about 15 seconds.Scrape the melted part of the cone off with a knife. Then use the knife to pop out the first ball bearing. Carefully pop out the rest of the ball bearings. After the first one comes out, the others should easily pop out. Then slide apart the two pieces of the security tag. Once the ball bearings are gone, the tag should come apart easily.If the experiment with magnets fails, the security tag is probably a magnetless one — a mechanical one. You can only do something here with mechanical force... Using a large rubber band, find where the pin is on the inside of your clothing next to the ink-cartridge part of the tag. Wrap the rubber band around this pin several times until it is tight. Add a second rubber band if the first one doesn't pop the two pieces apart.Try prying open the tag with a screwdriver or, at least break the plastic pieces with a hammer or vise. The smaller the remains of the anti-theft device, the better you can get it out of the fabric. You can usually saw through the remaining metal part with a hacksaw and thus remove the security tag. Sometimes it is better to clamp the wider metal part and pull out the thinner one with pliers.