

Pull out your current policy and check the box next to any coverage you can confirm is already in place — anything unchecked is worth a quick conversation with your advisor. Coverage checklist for general merchandise and specialty retailers. Priorities reflect typical exposure; confirm against merchandise, locations, and online sales.

CORE

PREVALENT

SITUATIONAL

— Core: almost always needed · Prevalent: commonly carried by businesses in this class · Situational: depends on specific exposure

COVERAGE	WHY THIS BUSINESS NEEDS IT	PRIORITY
☐ Commercial General Liability (incl. Products)	Covers customer injuries and products sold.	CORE
☐ Commercial Property & Business Income	Covers inventory, fixtures, and improvements, plus lost income after a covered loss.	CORE
☐ Crime / Employee Dishonesty	Covers employee theft and cash losses — shoplifting by customers is usually not covered.	PREVALENT
☐ Workers' Compensation	Required in most states; covers employees hurt in theft events or stocking.	CORE
☐ Employment Practices Liability	Covers harassment, discrimination, and wage claims, and false-detention claims tied to employment.	PREVALENT
☐ Cyber Liability	Covers payment data breaches, card skimming, and online-store attacks.	PREVALENT
☐ Vendor's Endorsement from Suppliers	Adds the store as an insured on suppliers' product liability.	PREVALENT
☐ Umbrella / Excess Liability	Adds limits above GL and auto.	SITUATIONAL

COMMON COVERAGE GAP FOR THIS CLASS

The most commonly missed exposure for this class is employee safety during theft. Shoplifting incidents rose 18% and violence during theft rose 17% in retailers' latest reporting, and employees who confront shoplifters can be injured or accused of false detention. A written no-pursuit policy, training, and contracted guards who carry their own insurance reduce both injury and liability. Retailers should also confirm that crime coverage fits their exposure, since customer shoplifting is typically not covered.

IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

This checklist is a free educational tool from Cory Washington & Co. to help you review your own coverage and have a more informed conversation with a licensed insurance professional. It is general information only — not insurance, legal, or financial advice, and not a recommendation to buy, change, or cancel any policy. The Core / Prevalent / Situational labels describe general patterns observed for this class of business — what is commonly carried, not a personalized recommendation or needs analysis for your specific operations. Coverage terms, availability, limits, and requirements vary by policy, carrier, and state, and only the language in your actual policy governs what is and isn't covered. Checking or leaving blank any item above does not indicate that you are adequately insured or under-insured. Using this checklist does not create a client, agency, or fiduciary relationship. Always consult a licensed professional about your specific situation.