

How to Keep a Low Profile

By Tracy Underwood



It's easy to get caught up in displaying to the world how special you are. But the world is a rough place, and it is full of people who are looking to profit at someone else's expense. From criminals who are looking for a mark to take advantage of, to people who want to sell you something you don't need, and even cops who are just looking for that next \$500 ticket to issue and make money for their bosses, if you stick out from the crowd, you are likely to be singled out. So if you wish to make your life easier, forget about flying your freak flag as you drive around in your iridescent purple Cadillac convertible with your tunes cranked up, because flaunting your wealth and freedom will only make you a target for those who will take them from you.

Things you'll need:

- The ability to put aside your desire to be noticed.

Step 1

Dress conservatively. In most environments you won't be noticed if you wear clean, standard fit blue jeans that are not too faded and have no holes, an oxford or perhaps flannel shirt or a clean T-shirt with no memorable print or images, and conservative but casual shoes. Another option would be the same thing, except "dress casual" pants instead of jeans. For women, the equivalent: don't dress too far down, but dress to blend rather than impress.

Step 2

Leave the red Mustang or Corvette at home, and the BMW, too. A beige or white Camry or Caprice will render you unnoticeable and easily forgettable. That's what you want, be unforgettable to your family and friends, not to the world at large.

Keep your car clean but not polished; and go with the flow of traffic, neither too fast nor too slow.

Step 3

Keep your cell phone turned off. If you need to be reachable or to make outgoing calls, use a cheap prepaid cell phone, that is not traceable to you. Cell phones have built-in GPS transponders that track and record your every move.

For the same reason, don't use checks or credit cards. The best thing to use is a prepaid debit card that isn't associated with your identification. Also, these cards can only be used up to the amount you load onto them, so if the number or the card itself is stolen, your losses are limited.

Step 4

Don't noticeably look around too much. You need to be aware of your surroundings, but the "wolves" out there are watching for people who are at a high state of alertness, because that indicates a worthwhile target. So you need to master the art of being sharp, but looking fuzzy.

Step 5

Don't speak out or make comments that might make anyone remember you, including cashiers and others you may have to deal with face-to-face.

Step 6

Don't let people get to you. A favored tactic of predators is to push folks around, and then target those who push back. Don't fall for it; you're smarter than that.

Step 7

Vary your routine. Don't give anyone a chance to set an ambush for you.

Tips & Warnings

In no way is this intended to be an aid to criminal activity.

These are tips that anyone can use to be more anonymous and therefore secure.

Your reasons for not wishing to be tracked and monitored are your own business. It is smart for anyone to keep their back trail clean.

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