

Secret Shopping Generates Extra Money for Stay-at-Home Moms

As a stay-at-home mom, you may run around from one place to the next all day long. You have the kids and possibly a pet in the car, maybe a friend, and it seems that you spend the entire day in your vehicle. Such is the life of a stay-at-home mom from time to time. Certainly, not every day is like this, but running the kids from here to there, shopping and taking care of all of your daily responsibilities often involves spending a lot of time in your car.

What if you could get paid for all that driving?

Secret shoppers don't actually get paid to drive a vehicle unless they sign up to be a secret shopper for an auto manufacturer. Ford, Chevrolet, Toyota and other dealerships employ secret shoppers that test-drive their vehicles and report back about the interaction they had with sales staff. However, these are not the only types of secret shopping jobs you can get. If you like to shop (and who doesn't?), you can make some extra money in your spare time as a secret shopper.

As a secret shopper, you get paid to shop and make purchases at retail stores. Since you are probably already driving around taking care of your to-do list from time to time, you may be able to squeeze in a couple of secret shops during your travels. Mystery shopping is incredibly versatile because you can work as much or as little as you want, and fit this part-time moneymaking activity around your schedule.

How Secret Shopping Works

If you have always wanted to be a detective or an actor, you are custom-made for mystery shopping. You act as a regular customer, just like you do whenever you

go shopping. The company or research organization that hires you gives you a specific list of tasks you need to complete. Most secret shopping jobs take place at physical stores. However, there are mystery shopping tasks which can be completed online, and even over the phone.

Your shop may take 10 or 15 minutes, or it could be as long as an hour. Assignments vary according to the company you work for and the cost of the item being purchased. Sometimes you will be expected to buy an item with your money, and then you're reimbursed later. In other cases, no purchase is required. Best of all, there are no education requirements. It doesn't matter if you are a college graduate or high school dropout. As long as you can follow a few simple instructions, you can make money as a mystery shopper.

What to Do to Become a Mystery Shopping Stay-At-Home Mom

Where do you get started? You can simply Google "mystery shopper jobs" or "secret shopping jobs," and then sort through thousands of listings. A quicker path to success and a faster way to get contacted by companies that need your services is to become certified by the Mystery Shopping Providers Association (MSPA).

You don't have to have any type of certification to begin making extra money as a stay-at-home mom doing mystery shops. However, in about an hour you can qualify for MSPA Silver certification and begin working. When you register and qualify for the MSPA Gold certification, you have access to higher paying jobs.

How Much Can You Make as a Stay-At-Home Mom Conducting Secret Shops?

Salary Expert is a website that conducts extensive research regarding the salaries of just about every occupation. They report that you can expect to earn from \$5

to \$20 per shopping trip on average. That's an extra \$20 to \$100 per week for 1 to 5 hours of shopping. Salary Expert reports that the average salary for a secret shopper the first year is \$31,317, but that is a full-time calculation. You can expect to earn anywhere from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars your first year of secret shopping as a stay-at-home mom working part-time.