

Hangers On: Purse hooks keep handbags off the floor and out of reach of any sticky fingers

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(Photo Courtesy of Pursehook.net)

WHAT IS IT: Purse hanger, a decorated hook.

WHAT IT DOES: Allows women to suspend their purses from a restaurant table or office desk instead of kicking them around on the floor or hanging them on the back of their chairs where passers-by with less-than-honest intentions could easily snag them. A decorated disk lies flat on the table, and leverage from the angled hook keeps it in place when a purse is hung from it. The hook could also hold sunglasses, a shopping bag or an umbrella. Some are engineered to hold as much as 35 pounds.

The one I tried in a souvenir shop at the beach easily held my bulging handbag when I suspended it from a countertop.

You can find purse hooks in myriad designs, including monogrammed silver discs, a dome of black glass encasing gold leaf, and discs decorated with Disney characters.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND IT: Many Web sites sell purse hangers, including www.pursejewelry.com, www.PurseHook.net and www.purse-pal.com. You might also look for them at specialty stores.

WHAT IT COSTS: Costs range from \$9 for simple painted designs to \$75 for a white- or yellow-gold piece decorated with Swarovski crystals in the design of a rose.