

How to Lock Your Bike

Lock First

Always lock your bike, **especially at home**. More bikes are stolen from home than from any other location. Wherever you store your bike; a garage, a college dorm room, an apartment building, use your lock.

Pick a Good Location

Select a location where there are other bikes. The chances are better that there will be a bike with a less secure lock - or even without a lock - and thieves will usually take the unlocked bikes first.

Always lock your bike in visible, well-lighted areas.

Lock your bike to a fixed, immovable object like a parking meter, or a permanent bike rack that is cemented or anchored into the ground. If you use a parking meter, make sure the locked bike cannot be slipped off over the top of the pole. Beware of locking to items that can be easily cut, broken or otherwise removed.



Try not to let your lock rest against the ground where a thief can use a hammer or rock to smash the lock.

Use the Lock Correctly

Position your bike frame and wheels so that you take up as much of the open space within the U-portion of the lock as possible. The tighter the lock up, the harder it will be for a thief to insert a pry bar and pry open your lock.

If your U-lock has its keyway on the end of the crossbar, position the lock with its keyway end facing down towards the ground. This makes it harder for the thief to access your lock.

Always secure your components and accessories, especially those that can be easily removed, like quick release wheels or seats.

If you have a multi-speed bike, leave it in the highest gear. This makes it that much harder for a thief to shift quickly and get away with your bike.

- Don't ever leave a new bike unlocked. New bikes have the most value to thieves and they look for them.
- Don't lock your bike to small trees, aluminum or wooden posts, or to chain link fences. These items can be easily broken or cut.
- Don't lock your bike to anything posted as illegal. Check with your police department for local bicycle parking regulations.
- Don't lock you bike to itself. A thief will just carry the whole bike away!

Source: National Bike Registry website