

KEEP YOUR BIKE TO YOURSELF

Choose a good lock.

Wire and cable locks are often easily cut.

U-locks are generally the best buy. Get the smallest and fit it with as much of your bike as you can. Big U-locks with lots of space are thief-friendly.

Use multiple locks if you can. More than one type of lock may foil thieves, as most only carry one kind of tool.

Always choose hardened steel locks.

Lock your bike in a visible area.

Try to find a bike rack in a high traffic area. Lock up at bike racks near well used doors to buildings if possible – choose well lit areas if parking at night.

Carefully choose the object you lock to

Lock to the sides of bike racks as the inner rings are easier to hacksaw through. Avoid signposts – bikes can be lifted over if there's enough room between the lock and the sign.

Lock your bike properly

The lock should go through:

- The main triangle formed by seat-tube, top-tube and down-tube OR the rear triangle formed by the seat-tube, chain stays and seat stays;
- The rims of one or both wheels and
- The object you're locking your bike to.

Position the keyhole of the lock downwards if possible, to make it harder to drill.

If you lock only to a quick release wheel, the thief can quickly take the bike and leave the wheel behind.



Vary the location you lock your bike.

Thieves may identify 'profitable' locations. By being unpredictable you could foil a thief who has your bike on his/her shopping list.

Disguise your bike.

This may sound distasteful for those who have spent their money on expensive bikes. However newer-looking and expensive bikes are prime targets. Cover logos with electrical or duct tape or buff/peel them off. Try to leave expensive bikes locked up at home when not in use.

Take photos of your bike.

Record components and specifications and keep your purchase receipt. Some people even shove a piece of paper in the seat tube which declares to a bike shop mechanic that the bike is stolen and to report it immediately.

Keep your bike inside overnight.

Bikes left on campus at night, in your backyard or on your porch are also targets for vandals and easier targets for theft.

Check that your bike is insured adequately.

Not a prevention step. However if your bike is stolen, you will be able to replace it without a significant financial burden on you.

Record serial numbers and identifying marks.

Fill out the attached card and keep it in a safe place (your wallet and a copy of it elsewhere should your wallet go astray). If your bike doesn't have a serial number, use your social insurance number, drivers' licence number or other secret and recorded number.

Engrave all accessories too.



Caught short without a lock?

Here are some better-than-nothing tips. Remember that everything you do to delay a bike thief helps prevent them from simply picking up your bike and riding away. These include:

- Remove and take the seat and seat post with you. Removing either or both the front and back wheels leaves a would-be thief with one less option to get away. Slip the chain off, too.
- Loosen or undo the brakes. If you have a pump, deflate the tire(s). Don't forget to take the pump with you!
- Jam something into the spokes. Tie your bike helmet straps into the spokes, or use a stick/object to jam the spokes.



BICYCLE IDENTIFICATION

Type _____

Make _____

Colour _____

Serial No _____

Special Equipment _____

Special Identifying marks _____

Keep this card in a safe place