



Tips for Bicycle Security

Register your bicycle. Obtain a sticker from a Milwaukee Police Dept. District station, any Milwaukee Public Library, or by mail from the City License Division. **Registration is free; instructions are on sticker.** Registration makes it easier for police to return your bike if found.

Keep a record of your bike's serial number and registration number. Take a photo of you and your unlocked bike. Keep the sales receipt.

How To Select a Lock

- Buy the most expensive lock you can afford. Buy a hardened steel U-lock with a flat or disc key; cylindrical keyed locks can be more easily picked
- Find out about the lock's performance. Does it have a good track record? A warranty? A guarantee? Lifetime key registration and prompt key replacement services?
- Keep an extra key to your lock in a safe place.
- Padlocks are the most vulnerable. Don't use them.

How To Lock Your Bike

- Employ a good locking strategy that has "layers of security". Thieves will try to steal the bike that offers the least resistance and attracts minimal attention in the process.
- If you can, use two U-locks: one for the front wheel and one through the rear triangle of your frame that also secures your rear wheel.
- Otherwise, use your U-lock to secure the rear wheel and frame, then loop a cable around your front wheel and safe guard it all with your U-lock.
- If you only have one lock, remove the front wheel of your bike. Try to lock it to your rear wheel, frame and a secure object.
- Make sure your lock encircles the rim and not just the spokes of the wheel.
- Position the key entry of the lock toward the ground, and place your lock as high as possible to make it harder for a thief to find leverage.

When Leaving Your Bike

- Always lock your bike, even if you're just leaving it for a moment.
- Store your bike inside if possible. Lock your bike when keeping it in a garage or on a porch. Keep garage doors closed and locked.

- Don't lock up bicycle outside overnight unless no other option.
- **Remove all easily detached parts**, such as pumps, lights, panniers, quick-release saddles and bike computers.
- Park safely and considerately without creating a hazard or obstruction for pedestrians. Avoid locking to private property.
- Lock your bike in a different location each day. Thieves "case" behavior patterns and thrive on predictability.
- If you're going to lock up your bicycle for an extended amount of time in a public place, use your beater bicycle instead of your good one.
- **Lock your bike to an immovable object** that cannot be easily broken, cut or removed. Use a designated bike rack or robust street furniture, such as lamp post or steel railings.
- **Don't** lock your bike to small trees, aluminum or wooden posts, chain link fences, or to sign posts which can be easily cut, unbolted, or removed.
- **DON'T** lock your bike to itself. A thief will just carry the whole bike away!
- Select well-lighted highly visible locations such as busy streets or in front of stores. Thieves are less likely to bother your bike if it's locked out in the open.
- 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.

What To Do If Your Bike Is Stolen

- File a report with the Police Department. Provide serial number registration number, sales receipt, and pictures if you have them.
- Look for cameras near where bike was stolen. Contact the building owner to recover tapes.
- Post the bike as "Stolen" in bikes section of Craigslist. If you receive a tip, contact the police. Do not attempt to recover bike on your own.
- Post a photo, description, serial number on the Washington Heights Yahoo Group Crime and Security email list, as well as personal social media such as Facebook or Twitter.
- Post details of theft on MKEBIKE.com at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/139524959426348/>
- File a claim with your renter or homeowner's insurance company. The theft may be covered, depending on deductible.
- Visit local flea markets to look for bike. If you do spot your bike, call the local police immediately and ask them to assist in your recovery.
- If you're buying a secondhand bike, be vigilant and a good citizen. If you're buying a new racing bike for \$50 and paying cash, something's not right. Contact the police who may be able to locate the owner, and possibly apprehend the thief.