

How to lock your Bicycle Properly



Avoid Bicycle Theft

Always lock your bike! It takes only seconds to pedal away on an unlocked bike.

Choose a secure post this is unmovable, with a secure top on the post. Prevent thieves from lifting your bicycle up and over post.

The more locks on the bike, the longer you have to stop or distract the thief.

Use two different locks, with separate locking mechanisms. Thieves carry tools that will either snip cables, or pry-apart U-locks, but rarely both. A cable-lock and a U-lock together are very secure and will take the thief longer to cut; giving you or passer by the opportunity to stop them.

Don't use a cable that's secured by a U-lock, once the thief gets through the U-lock, he's got your bike!

Pull your cable lock through both wheels, and lock it **around a bike rack** or other closed loop stand. Open-top posts (like parking meters or traffic signs) let thieves lift bikes over them. If you use a cable lock and a U-Lock, you may not need to remove your front wheel to secure it.



Wrap your U-lock around a secure post. Then pass it around your rear wheel rim or front wheel rim and inside the bike's frame.

A small U-lock is better than a large one. Small locks are much harder to pry open with a crowbar than a wide U-lock.



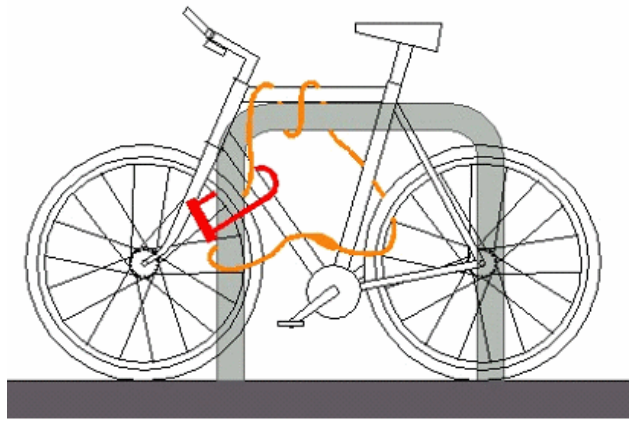


Image by massbike.org

This bike is locked to a rack with a cable lock and a U-lock. The cable lock secures both wheels to the rack, and the U-lock locks the front wheel and frame to the rack. It cannot be stolen unless the thief can defeat both locks.

More Theft Deterrents

The more locks you have the longer it will take the thief to steel your bicycle. Giving you or a passer the opportunity to stop them.

Don't leave removable gear on your bike. Take pumps, lights, panniers and other accessories with you.

Lock down all items that have quick releases with cables or padlocks like seat post or use security bolts instead or quick releases to avoid parts from being stolen.

Park your bike where you see other bikes parked and heavy foot traffic.

Ask your employer, your favorite shops, and other places you visit on your bicycle to provide safe, highly visible and weather-protected bicycle parking.

Locking without wheel removal



Position your bike frame and wheels so that you fill up or take up as much of the open space within the lock's U portion 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. Notice here that 2 different locks are used.

Locking with removing front wheel



Lock to a fixed, immovable object, a parking meter; or a permanent bike rack cemented or anchored into the ground. It must prevent a thief from slipping the locked bike off over the top of the pole. Beware of locking to items that can easily be cut, broken or removed.