



Security at home

A recent survey found that over half of all bicycle thefts take place on the owner's property, including thefts from garages, sheds and gardens. Make sure the place you keep your bike is secure, and consider installing a steel loop or other fixed anchor point to a wall for locking your bike. If this isn't possible, try to keep your bike out of sight (even if it's inside the house or flat) so as not to attract the opportunist thief.

Insurance

It is a good idea to insure your bike. An easy way to do this is to extend your home contents insurance to cover your bicycle but make sure it covers you for thefts outside the home too. If your bicycle is particularly valuable, you may need to insure it separately and the insurer may require you to use certain specified levels of security. Some insurers will offer a discount for using an approved security marking and registration scheme – check the requirements and see if your local bike shop can help you provide it.

Checklist:

- ✓ Always lock your bike if leaving it unattended.
- ✓ Choose a place to lock your bike where there are lots of people and a high level of natural surveillance.
- ✓ Invest in an adequate lock.
- ✓ Consider registering your bike through an approved scheme.
- ✓ Consider adding your bike to your home contents insurance.

Tip: Locking both wheel and frame will make your bike more secure.



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Further information

The National Cycling Forum has produced an information sheet on cycle security. Available from: www.nationalcyclingstrategy.org.uk or in hard copy format from the National Cycling Forum Secretariat on: 020 7944 2977

Other leaflets in this series:

- Cycling: the right bike for you
- Cycling: basic bike maintenance
- Cycling: in different conditions
- Cycling: sharing your route
- Cycling: with children
- Cycling: finding your way
- Cycling: clothes & accessories

For more copies of this leaflet or others in the series, or for advice on where to cycle, including maps and guides, contact Sustrans on 0117 929 0888 or visit www.sustrans.org.uk

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Cycling – security matters

Whatever type of bike you have, it is essential to keep it secure. Almost 400,000 bicycles are stolen every year in England and Wales – however following a few simple steps and a small investment in the right type of lock could help you minimise the risk of yours being one of them.

Gaining confidence on a bike is generally a lot easier than learning to drive a car. And once you're in the saddle, it's often quicker and easier to get around by bike. This leaflet is one of a series giving tips to help you get going - and enjoy the freedom and convenience of cycling.

Cycle security – the basic rules

- ✓ Always lock your bike up when leaving it unattended – even if it is only for a few minutes.
- ✓ Try and choose somewhere where it will be exposed to a high level of public observation.
- ✓ If a purpose built cycle stand is not available, choose a fixed piece of street 'furniture', making sure the bike cannot be lifted off (e.g from a short post). If you are using a fixture such as a lamppost, please be careful not to obstruct the way for other users such as wheelchair users, the visually impaired and people with baby buggies. Please respect any specific requests not to use a particular fixture.
- ✓ Apart from locking the frame, make sure that any quick release and detachable items such as wheels, saddles and lights are either secured or removed and taken with you.



Choosing a bike lock

There is a variety of types of lock available – the main choices being chain & padlock combination (cheap and flexible), cable locks (useful for securing parts of the bike such as the saddle) and solid metal D-locks. There is a government backed system to test and grade cycle locks depending on level of security offered with D-locks generally offering the highest level of security.



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Security marking and registration

Getting your bike postcoded by the police, keeping photographs and a record of the frame number could all help the police identify and recover your bike if it is stolen. If your bike is particularly valuable you should consult the crime prevention officer at your local police station for advice. Most bike shops should also be able to advise you and some now offer microchipping on new bikes they sell.

