

HOW TO SAFELY LOCK YOUR BIKE

Photo Source: Egor Myznik

USE MULTIPLE TYPES OF SECURE LOCKS

1. Use a U-Lock and have a tight fit
 - Unlike cable locks, they can't be easily cut.
 - The smaller the fit, the better.

A tight fit is best, as there is less room for thieves to use their tools to pry open.



Photo Source: Lifehacker

2. Use multiple locks with different locking mechanisms
 - Many thieves do not carry tools for different types of locks. Diversifying the types of locks you use increases your protection against theft.
 - Try using a U-Lock for the primary lock (for your frame, rear wheel, and sturdy object like a Bike Rack) and a Cable Lock for the secondary lock (for your front wheel and frame)!
3. Do not anchor your Cable Lock to your U-Lock.
 - If the locks are connected and thieves can unlock your U-Lock, they can take your bike.

STEPS TO LOCKING YOUR BIKE

Lock Your Bike by Order of Priority and Value

1. Lock the frame first with a U-Lock.
 - If your bike is only locked by the wheel, a thief can easily steal your frame.
2. Lock the rear wheel next. If possible, lock the frame with your rear wheel together with the U-Lock.
 - Try to lock your frame and rear wheel (by the inside rear triangle of the frame) together with a U-Lock to something solid such as a bike rack.
3. Lock the front wheel last a secondary lock that has a different locking mechanism.
 - Use a secondary lock with a different locking mechanism, such as a Cable lock, to secure the front wheel and saddle together to something solid such as a bike rack.
 - Do not anchor it to your primary lock

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STEPS TO LOCKING YOUR BIKE (CONT.)

4. Position your lock off the ground & with the keyhole facing down.
5. If you can't lock the frame and both wheels, take off the front wheel and place it by the rear wheel to lock. If you can only lock one part, lock the frame.



Photo Source: Bike There

As this illustration shows, the U-Lock first locks the frame and rear wheel together to a sturdy object such as a bike rack. A separate secondary cable lock then locks the front wheel and frame together. Note that the secondary lock is not anchored on the primary lock.

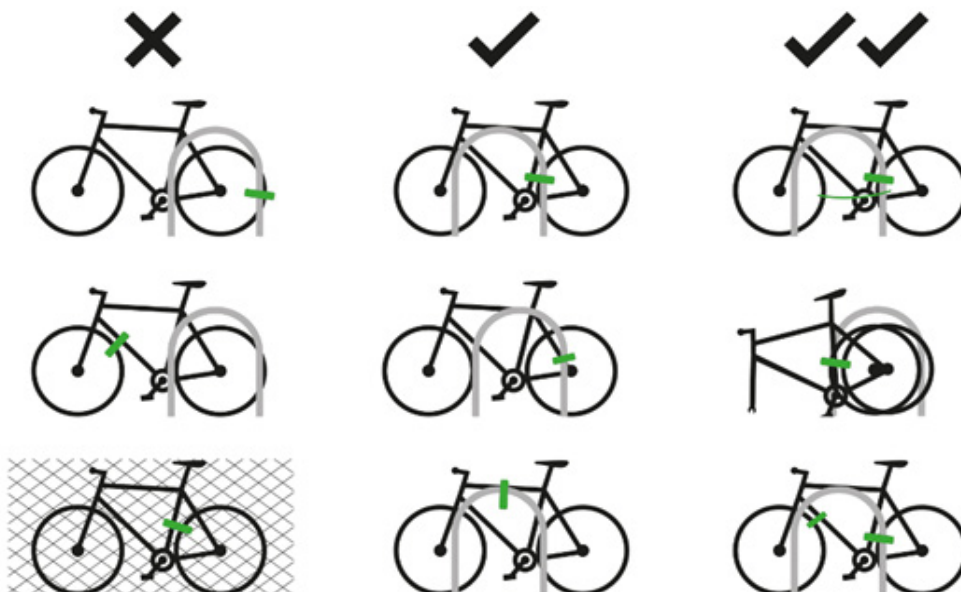


Photo Source: Hiplok

This is a diagram of some of the ways you can safely lock your bike.



Photo Source: Egor Myznik

PRECAUTIONS TO HELP WITH STEALING

1. Take easily removable parts with you, such as lights and pumps.
2. Have proof of ownership—which could be as easy as taking a picture of you and your bike at home!
3. Register your bike in a database such as Bike Shepherd to get unique scannable stickers for your bike and send our theft alerts.
4. Write your name or initials on your tires or the top of your frame.
 - You can also do this by writing your name and/or phone number on a piece of Tyvek (a sturdy cloth-like plastic) and inserting it to your rear tire between the rim and the inner tube. If your bike is stolen and is in need of repair, this will allow a bike store can locate and contact you.
5. Use a GPS tracker.
6. Swap out your quick release skewers- commonly used on wheels and saddles- for some thing more secure such as locking skewers.
7. Secure your saddle with chains. Wrap a chain around your bike’s chains stays (the small bar parallel to the chain) to the saddle rails (metal bars below your seat cushion) for extra protection.
8. Use electrical tape on your frame, seat, and handlebars to make it seem like you are hiding damage. The less appealing your bike looks, the less likely it is to be stolen.

SOURCES

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