

**choose
freedom!**

Bike Security

Keeping your Bike Secure

1. **Use a good lock** (preferably 2)
 - Bike thieves need to operate quickly to reduce the chance of being caught. Heavy duty bike lock(s) make the thief's job more difficult.
2. **Consider using more than 1 lock to secure your bike**
 - 2 different locks will mean thieves need 2 different types of tools to remove them.
3. **Make the locks and bike hard to manoeuvre**
 - When parked ensure that there is little room between the stand and your bike
4. **Keep lock off the ground**
 - Locks are more vulnerable when in contact with the ground – it is easier for the thief to leverage the lock, and easier for them to smash
5. **Make it difficult to ride away**
 - Remove the seat/seat post making it a difficult for the thief to ride away on the bike
 - Remove front wheel if quick release
6. **Remove any accessories**
 - Remove any accessories which can be easily stolen such as lights, computers, tool bags etc.
7. **Record**
 - Make a record of your bike – frame / serial numbers, any other marks by which it can be identified.
 - Take a photograph and write a description so you can describe it accurately if it does get stolen
8. **Register**
 - A registered bike is less likely to be targeted
 - By registering and marking your bike you stand a chance that the police will be able to return it if stolen
9. **Report**
 - More and more marked bikes are being recovered and returned, if your bike is stolen report it to the police
10. **Insurance**
 - Check whether your home contents insurance covers your bike. Make sure it covers you for thefts outside of the home also.
 - If your bike is particularly valuable you may need to insure it separately.
 - Some insurance companies specify a particular standard of lock. If you are buying a new lock, check this with the insurance company first.

Locks

- Some locks may look secure, but are mostly made up of a thick layer of plastic with a thin metal core – which is easy for a thief to twist off or cut through.
- You should look for a lock with a '**Sold Secure**' rating of Bronze, Silver, or Gold. All have been tested against attack and Gold offers the highest level of protection.
- You should look to spend **at least 10%** of the value of your bike on a bike lock
- **D-Lock/U-Lock** – are rigid locks in a **D** or **U** shape, generally very heavy and tough looking. The costs can range from between £20 - £80. Many come with a cable for extra security.



- **Cable locks** – can vary in weight and strength and are more flexible so can be used in situations where a D-lock might not fit. Thinner cheaper versions of cable locks are very easy to cut through, and the thicker versions are also vulnerable.



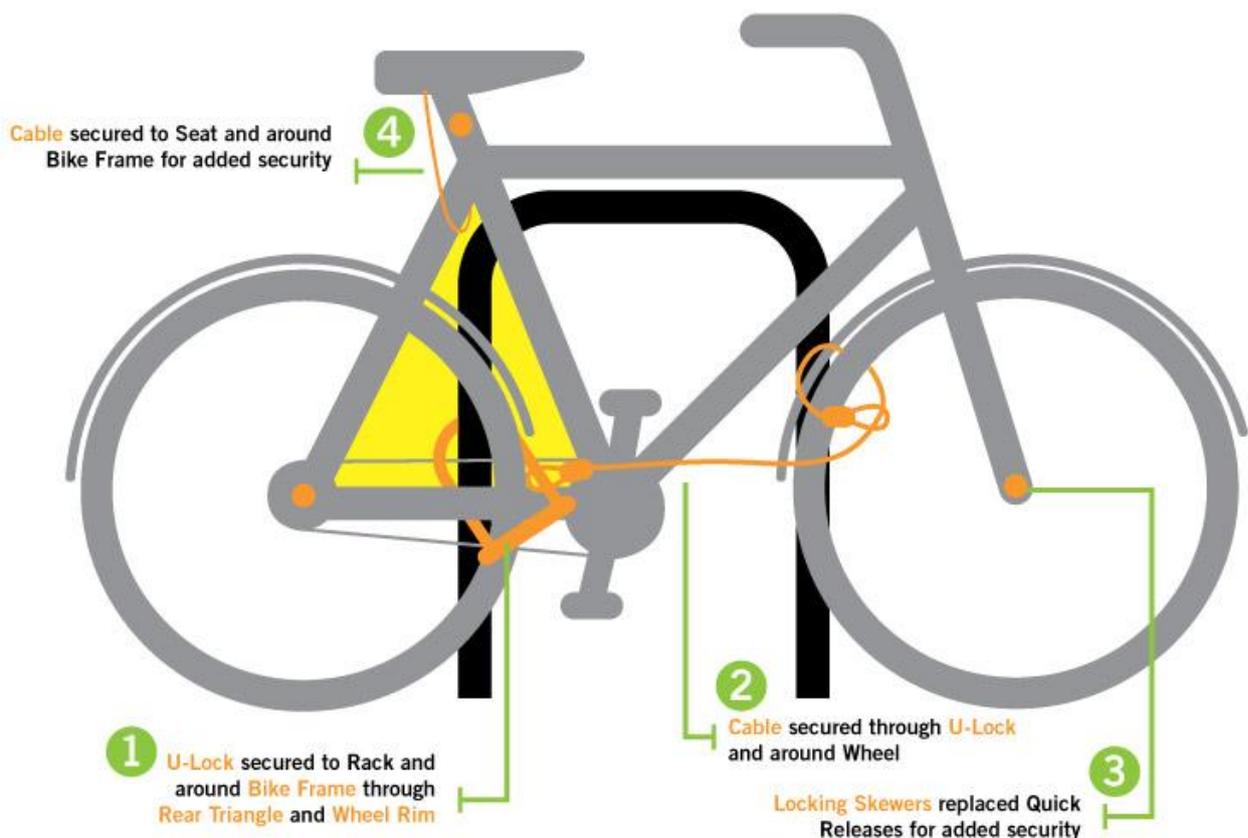
- **Flexible, secure locks** – try the Kryptonite series 2 955 integrated chain lock or the Bordo 5900 foldable lock



Using Locks Effectively

- Lock the frame, front and back wheel to the object you have secured your bike to
- When using a D-lock, make sure it is tightly fastened and not hanging loose
- Face the D-lock keyhole facing downwards which makes it difficult for anything to be sprayed into it.
- Don't place the lock too near to the ground
- Use the rear triangle – the frame is automatically secured if the rear wheel is locked inside the rear triangle.

Using the Rear Triangle



U-LOCK &
CABLE LOCK



CHAIN &
CABLE LOCK



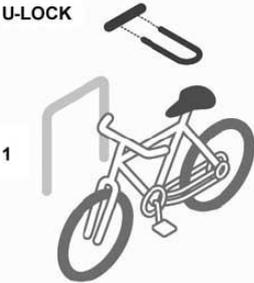
CABLE LOCK ONLY



FRAME ONLY



U-LOCK



FRONT WHEEL ONLY



Register your bike

You can register your bike for as little as £10.99. By marking and registering your bike you stand a chance that the police will be able to return it to you if it is stolen.

You can register your bike at:

www.bikeregister.com

or

www.immobilise.com

From time to time British Transport Police run a free bike marking service at stations. Information on these sessions is posted on www.liverpool.gov.uk/cycling

Insurance

Check your bike is covered by your home contents insurance, and that it is covered for theft outside the home. If you have an expensive bike it may be worth insuring it separately. Here are some sites which specialise in insuring bicycles:

www.bicyinsurance.com

www.thebikeinsurer.co.uk

www.cycleinsurance.co.uk

www.cycleguard.co.uk

www.evanscycles.com/insurance

Too many people lose their bike to a thief within days of buying it. Don't be one of them – keep your bike secure so you can enjoy years of cycling.