



Bicycle Safety



A bike can be stolen from just about any place that anyone would park a bike! But if you take the following sensible precautions, your “wheels” won’t be taking any unscheduled trips without you. Remember: **MOST BIKES THAT GOT STOLEN WEREN’T LOCKED!**

1. Always lock your bicycle securely and correctly when it is unattended, even if it is inside a building.
2. If your bicycle is at home, keep it in a locked garage, basement or room, not in the yard or driveway.
3. Lock your bicycle by placing a chain or cable through both wheels, the frame and around a stationary object. If you use a bicycle rack, place the chain or cable through one wheel and the frame.
4. Use a high quality lock and case-hardened chain or cable to lock your bike. The lock should have at least a 9/32” shackle, and the body and locking mechanism should be case-hardened. The lock should have a double locking mechanism with heel and toe locking.
5. Record the serial number of your bicycle and keep it, along with the sales receipt and a photograph of it, with your permanent records.
6. Call you local police station and ask them what kind of identification number they recommend (could be your social security or your parent’s driver’s license number), and if they have an engraver you can borrow to mark your bike.

If you bought a new bike in the last few years, the bike shop may have registered it for you, but now, you also need to mark the bike.

Marking your bike helps protect you and serves as a deterrent to would be bike thieves. It also helps the police in identifying and returning a found or stolen bike to the owner.

Besides marking and registering your bike, fill out a description of it. Use the form below, and keep it in a safe place.

If your bike is stolen, call the police immediately. Tell them who you are, where the bike was stolen and when, and give the description, of the bike that is on the form.



Serial No. _____

Owner's Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

Boys _____ Girls _____ Size _____

Brand Name _____

Color _____ Speeds _____

Fenders: Yes ___ No ___

Owner's Signature _____

Registrar's Signature _____

Date _____ New or Used _____

DO:

1. Ride with traffic. Keep to the right of the road.
2. Obey all traffic regulations.
3. Use proper hand signals for turning or stopping.
4. Stop and look both ways in order to make sure that sidewalks or streets are clear before entering a street.
5. Walk your bicycle across busy streets at corners or crosswalks.
6. Use proper headlights and red tail light or reflector when riding at night.



DON'T:

1. Show off. Keep your hands on the handlebars.
2. Zigzag, race or stunt-ride in traffic.
3. Hitch rides on trucks or cars.
4. Accept passengers.
5. Carry large packages which could get in your way (use luggage carrier or basket).
6. Ride against traffic.
7. Wear dark clothing at night. Wear reflective clothing and light colors.
8. Tailgate or ride too closely to cars and trucks.

Accidents involving bicycles are steadily increasing.

Major streets are the most dangerous. The peak traffic hours between 4 and 6 p.m. are the most hazardous for cyclists.

Avoid busy streets as much as possible and try to plan your biking before 4 p.m.