

## 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.

## 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 others 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.



### Other leaflets in the series:

Leaflet 1: basic bike maintenance

Leaflet 2: clothing and accessories

Leaflet 4: with children

Leaflet 5: electric bikes

Leaflet 6: the right bike for you

### Acknowledgements

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For further information about Cycling in Swindon, visit  
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# Cycle Security



## Leaflet 3



## 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. For additional security, you may want to consider using two different types of locks to secure your bike as thieves are less likely to target a double locked bike over one with a single lock. Be prepared to spend around 15%-20% of value of the bike on a lock.

## 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 micro chipping on new bikes they sell. Also look out for free security marking offered by the “community safety team” – especially in Bike Week (June) or in the New Year when people have received new bikes for Christmas.



A good example of covered, well used, overlooked cycle parking

## 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. By joining one of the national cycle organisations (such as British Cycling or the CTC) your membership can also include 3rd party insurance, or provide a discount.

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. Should you need to make an insurance claim, insurance companies often require proof of ownership before considering any payments, so make sure you keep a receipt or photograph with bicycle frame number.

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

## 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.
- ✓ Ensure your bike is covered on your home contents insurance.