

Record Your Cycle

If your bicycle is stolen, could you describe it to a police officer? We find it amazing how much people tend to forget about their bikes.

Complete these details as best you can and keep this guide with your documents to use in the event of theft.

Your Name.....

Make of Cycle.....

Model Colour(s).....

Type: Standard / Hybrid / Mountain / Racer / BMX / Other.....

Frame Number (on 90% of bikes, see overleaf)
.....

Bike Marking Kit Type & Code
.....

Draw or describe the distinguishing features of the bike (e.g. lights, basket, accessories) and if possible take a photo and keep it with this leaflet.



Key Tip: Record the make and number of your key to make it easy to replace



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HOW TO KEEP YOUR BICYCLE



INCLUDES A BIKE RECORDING FORM



VISIT: WWW.SAFER-BEDS.ORG



Mark Your Bicycles

A unique code marked on a bike assists the police in returning a bike to its owner. It also deters theft by making it easier:

- to check the ownership of the bike
- to prosecute handlers caught with marked goods.



Contact your local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, the crime reduction officer or your local policing team to find out how you can mark your cycle. They can be reached through your local police station.

Which lock should I buy?

Key Tip: Children or anyone likely to lose keys could use a good quality **combination lock**.

This is not an easy question for the police to answer as they cannot recommend any individual product. New products come out all the time and it is difficult to keep up with the latest developments. As a general rule, the more you spend on a lock, the more security it will offer. Aim to invest around 20% of the value of your bicycle on security systems. Buy good quality locks and **use them every time**.



Key Tip: Integrater locks like this one are easy to use and reduce opportunistic thefts. Use with a plug in cable or other locks to secure to an immovable object.

Bicycle Security Tips

How to lock your bike

Wherever possible, try to find a place to secure the frame and at least one wheel to an immovable object. If there are cycle parking facilities nearby that provide this, use them, otherwise look for railings or posts, but don't cause an obstruction and respect any signs that ask you not to leave your bikes there.

Key Tip: Don't Leave Your Bike Unlocked.

A high proportion of stolen cycles are simply not locked. Often they are stolen from garden sheds or garages. Ensure that you chain them to something solid and secure that shed or garage!



Locating Your Frame Number

6. Above crank, on nearside of seat tube as label in the V formed with the down tube

5. Behind the front tube

2. Behind the seat tube

7. Base of the front tube

3. On a rear axle plate



1. Under the bottom bracket

4. On one of the stays

A frame number is a mix of about 5 to 10 digits and letters stamped somewhere onto the frame

Visit www.safer-beds.org for more crime reduction advice

Cycling is the best way of getting around

Sadly though cycle theft is a high volume crime with hundreds of incidents reported every year.



However there are some people who have never had their bicycle stolen. This booklet tells you about some of the tricks they use.

Before your bicycle is stolen

- Use the form in this booklet to record details of your bike. It will help you describe the bike to police officers and increase the chance of recovery.
- Have your bike marked with a unique code either at a bike marking day held by Bedfordshire Police (events found at www.safer-beds.org) or buy a marking kit.
- Visit www.immobilise.com to register your property for free.
- Please report as soon as possible to the police on **01234 841212**. A suspect may be released with your cycle if it hasn't been reported missing.
- When reported, your bikes details go on to a stolen property register and anyone found with it can be arrested.

The Best Locks

Some locks offer virtually no security and can simply be pulled apart. 'D' or 'U' locks may look strong but the security they offer varies widely. Thin cable locks can easily be cut, but the better ones are thicker and have interwoven threads that force any attacker to spend longer 'chewing' through them. The website www.soldsecure.com test how well locks survive attacks.



The longer it takes a thief to break open a lock, the more likely offenders are to be caught, and so they will move on to a easier target.

Key Tip: Look for packaging that claims resistance to attack of 1 minute or more.

Accessories

If a thief can't steal your bike, they may take a piece of it. Wheels and seats held by "quick release" fittings are vulnerable. Local bike shops have a solution to this, in which the lever is replaced by a security bolt. Bicycle lights are made to be detachable, so remove them before a thief does.

Second Hand or Contraband?

Ask if the seller can reasonably account for the history of the bike. Ask to see the frame number, if there has been interference with it decline the purchase. If stickers or other decal have been removed (e.g. to disguise identity), ask why. **If in doubt, do not buy.**