

Top Tips to Protect Your Bike



With the popularity of cycling at an all time high, what should you do to protect your bike from theft?

1. Get a decent lock

Bike thieves need to operate quickly to reduce the chance of being caught, so a decent bike lock is literally worth its weight in gold. A heavy-duty bike lock can make a thief's job more difficult, with the result that they abandon attempts to steal your bike or move onto a bike with a less secure lock.

2. Make your mark

Marking your bike with a unique code ensures that Police will be able to trace your bike back to you if it is stolen and recovered. Make sure you register the bike online at BikeRegister and download a registration log book, proving ownership.

3. Insure it

You may have invested a significant amount of money into your bike, so be sure you're covered for theft. It's worth considering specialist cycle insurance, especially if your bike is valuable, as some home insurance providers often have a value limit on your bike. Other considerations with your home insurance is to check that it covers you for theft away from your home.

4. Out and about

Bike thefts can occur at any time - day or night. A growing trend is that thieves are stealing certain makes and models to order. Park your bike in a well-lit area, where it can be easily seen by passers-by. Lock both wheels and the frame of your bike to a cycle stand or other immovable object. Use designated parking areas where possible.

Make sure the locks go through the bike frame as well as both wheels and the post you are securing it to. Otherwise, a thief may steal the bike and leave the wheels behind. Also, make sure it isn't possible to cut through the post, or for the bike to be lifted up over the top of it.

5. At home

More than half of bikes are stolen from home. Reduce the chances of this happening by:

- Storing your bike in a locked shed or garage
- Keeping it out of view
- Securing it to an immovable object.

6. Follow the Three R's :-

Record / Register / Report