

## Lock your bike

Bikes are usually stolen because they have not been secured, or have been secured poorly.

More than 50% of bikes are stolen from the owner's property.

Many insurance policies provide only limited cover for bike theft, leaving you liable for the replacement cost.

It is more cost effective for you to properly secure your bike in the first place.

Your bike can be cycle marked, registered and/or tagged by the police at certain events.

The products used by Lothian and Borders Police are recommended by Secured by Design, the official UK Police security advice initiative supporting the principles of 'designing out crime.'



## Locking your bike

- Always lock your bicycle, even for a couple of minutes.
- Lock your bike to an immovable object. Use a proper stand/ground anchor/robust street furniture. Thieves remove drainpipes and lift bikes off signposts. If provision is inadequate, tell your local authority.
- Lock your bike through the frame.
- Secure removable parts. Lock both wheels and frame together. Take smaller parts and accessories that can be removed without tools with you, e.g. lights etc and fit security fasteners on items such as wheels, headsets and seat posts.
- Make the lock (and chain, if used) and bike difficult to move when parked.
- To stop thieves smashing the lock open.
  - keep the lock (and/or chain) away from the ground.
  - keep the gap between the bike and the lock small.
  - never leave the lock lying on the ground, it can be easily sledgehammered.
- Prevent lock picking. Face the lock towards the ground – but not resting on it, making it harder to turn to pick.

## Out and about

- Lock in a busy, well-lit place, in view of other people or CCTV cameras.
- Don't park your bike in the way of pedestrians, prams or wheelchairs.
- Never park in front of a fire exit.
- Don't lock up your bike in the same place every day - there's more chance of it being noticed and stolen to order.

## Cycle safely

- Don't cycle on pavements unless a recognised cycle route. Many pedestrians and cyclists are injured every year in this way, and you may be liable for prosecution.
- Wear bright or fluorescent clothing and/or sashes.
- Wear a good quality, correctly fitting cycle helmet. Look for products marked British Standard BS EN 1078: 1997 (or the older BS 6863:1989)
- Use lights when it's dark. It is a legal requirement to have: a white light on the front; a red light on the rear; and a rear red reflector and amber/yellow pedal reflectors on the front and rear of each pedal.

# At home

## Your common stair

- Make sure your door entry system is working and the entry door shuts and locks.
- Never let strangers into the stair.
- Never leave the stair door wedged open.
- Make sure that any rear stair door is locked at all times.
- If you can, install a ground anchor in the stair to secure your bike to. Better still, keep it in your home.

## Your shed/garage

- Fit a good quality padlock and hasp to the front door of the shed.
- Fit non-return screws or coach bolts for the hinges and hasp on a shed.
- Cover windows with old curtains and fit wire mesh on the inside.
- Secure your bike with a good quality chain/ padlock or D-Lock to a ground anchor.
- If there are a number of bikes, lock them together.
- Install a shed/garage alarm.
- Is the garage door secure or should you fit additional locks?

## And finally...

Make sure you take a note of all your bike details, including the serial number (usually found underneath the bottom bracket). This way if your bike is stolen or stripped, you can pass the details to the police to help them find your bike or parts, and help catch those responsible.

You can register your bikes details free online at [www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com).

## Find out more

### [www.lbp.police.uk](http://www.lbp.police.uk)

Contact your local crime prevention officer to find out about bike marking events in your area. 0131 311 3131.

### [www.securedbydesign.co.uk](http://www.securedbydesign.co.uk)

UK police website advising how to secure your home and property.

### [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk)

Campaign for better conditions for cyclists in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

### [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

UK charity encouraging people to travel more by foot, bike or public transport.

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**R**egister it  
**U**V mark it.  
**L**ock it.  
**E**lectronically tag it.  
**S**ecure it.

