How to be a Cycling Flat-Dweller



Edinburgh is increasingly a cycling city, and both Spokes and the City of Edinburgh Council want to help more people to cycle more often. For many residents, improving bike storage at home is a necessary first step.



Factsheet contents:

- 1. Storage for individuals: bike choice, security, in-flat options
- 2. Storage at stairwell-level, including back-greens etc
- 3. Community level storage, e.g. on-street facilities
- 4. E-bikes and cargo bikes

Think about:

- Number and type of bikes to be stored
- Bike storage security
- · Other spaces that might be used
- Neighbours' opinions
- Permissions needed

1. Tackling storage as an individual

1.1 Choose a Bike with Storage in Mind

Think carefully about storage and security when choosing a bike

- Is it worth spending more on a bike light enough to carry upstairs?
- Would a folding bike meet your needs?
- Will you need to spend a lot on security and storage for an expensive bike stored out of your sight?

1.2 Keeping a Bike in Your Flat

Storing a bike in your flat offers high security

Good organisation might fit in more bikes than you'd think

• There are many different storage fittings – check bike shops, local DIY/hardware stores and online (possible suppliers on back page).



Five bike hanging bike rack @ Mottez

- Consider wall hooks, brackets (some fold back when not in use), ceiling pulleys/hoists, etc to hang bikes. Always follow manufacturers' advice about maximum weights and wall-quality.
- Consider the clearance space needed around the bike (especially handlebars).
- Protect wall/floors from bike dirt.
- Seek landlord permission, if required, before fixing equipment to walls or ceilings, or use free-standing options.



© Brompton.com

A folding bike might be one answer

1.3 If you can't store it in your flat

A bike stored outside your flat is at greater risk from theft so minimise the temptation

- Use one or more decent locks, and secure both wheels and frame. Look for the 'Sold Secure' logo. See www.soldsecure.com
- Lock to something immovable. Remove items such as saddle, lights and panniers.
- Use stairwell door locks; talk to neighbours about keeping doors shut. Bike thieves find banisters and rails easy to force or cut (and they're expensive to repair).
- If outside, get a waterproof cover to keep off rain and screen the bike from thieves.



© www.cycloc.com

1.4 Security advice

Register your bike with the Police and security-mark it, e.g. www.bikeregister.com Police Crime Prevention Officers may give further advice - tel 0131 311 3131 More ideas on the Spokes security page: spokes.org.uk/documents/advice/security

Ceiling and wall racks come in many forms



Floor-to-Ceiling aluminum bike rack © Gear Up

2. Tackling storage collectively at stair level, inside or out

Even small storage improvements can improve both bike security and stairwell tidiness, and reduce conflicts with neighbours — as well as encouraging more cycling Obviously cost/security trade-offs, and building regulations, must all be considered too

2.1 Get Organised

Discuss with neighbours whether stairwell space might be better organised, for bikes and anything else, always keeping fire safety in mind

Can you also improve access to exits and back-greens, and make cleaning easier?

- Discuss use of any other accessible spaces, such as backgreens or cellars.
- Consider creating an Owners' Association for the stair. For ideas on working with neighbours see **edinburgh.gov.uk/sharedrepairs** (tenement toolkit). Developments (e.g. a bike shed) need unanimity although common repairs only need a simple majority.
- Remove 'dead' or unused bikes that are taking up space (but avoid unintended 'theft'). The Bike Station is a good destination for redundant bikes (click donate button at **thebikestation.org.uk**).

2.2 Fixtures and Fittings which may help, inside or out

- Rings/anchors/bars for locking bikes, secured to wall or floor.
- Wall-mounted brackets or racks (see 'in-flat' solutions above).
- Bike stands, e.g. a 'Sheffield rack', or several joined as a 'toast-rack', fixed or free-standing. Avoid the butterfly-shaped 'wheel-benders'. If outside, consider a cover.
- Lockable containers or sheds fireproof if possible.

2.3 Regulations and permissions (check if fees apply)

- Building Standards (search for Building Warrants at edinburgh.gov.uk). In stairwells exits must not be obstructed; there must be clear access of at least 800mm; and bikes should be secured so as not to slip. Outdoors a cycle container must not be within 3m of a tenement external wall.
- Planning permission (search for Planning Permission at edinburgh.gov.uk). We strongly suggest that you follow the advice in the Spokes factsheet, which has been approved as appropriate by the Council. spokes.org.uk/documents/advice/bike-storage-gardens. There is a planning application fee (currently £105) which is not refunded even if the application is turned down.
- Listed Building consent (search for Listed Buildings at edinburgh.gov.uk).

 You may need this if the character or external appearance of a listed building is affected.



Discuss with neighbours whether space might be used better, for bikes and anything else

Multiple bike stairwell rack © Tpi Consultancy

Communal racks have to be strong - avoid poor designs which can bend wheels

This floor-mounted rack holds six bikes

but can be made to other sizes (from various suppliers).

© www.cyclehoop.com/product/racks/toast-rack/



Be aware
of the
constraints
posed by
Building
Standards

Choices include hanging bikes, a floor rack, or a bike shed. Different premises will offer different possibilities.

Outdoor bicycle storage box © www.trimetals.co.uk/product/metal-bike-storage/

3. Community level solutions, beyond the individual tenement

Even if in-flat, stairwell or back-green storage seem impossible, there is still hope!

Talk to your councillors (3 or 4 for each ward - see edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors).

3.1 On-street bike parking

In Edinburgh this is usually 'Edinburgh racks' - a Sheffield rack (inverted U shape) plus a horizontal bar. Frame and wheel can be locked, and it supports bikes of all sizes, including childrens. There are also 'loops' bolted on lampposts so bikes can be locked with less danger of slipping. However, such facilities are open to the weather and to thieves – they are good for short-term or even all-day

parking but risky for overnight storage.

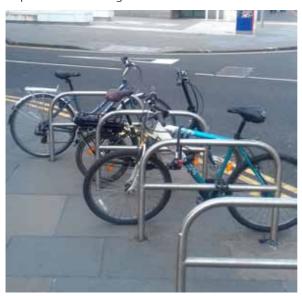
To suggest additional locations, email activetravel@edinburgh.gov.uk

3.2 On-street secure storage

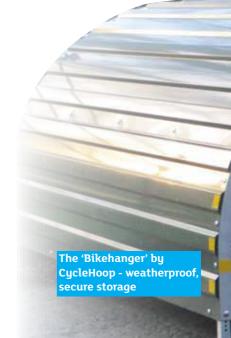
Edinburgh Council has appointed Cyclehoop (www.cyclehoop.rentals) to install and manage bike lockers for overnight storage - expected to begin operation in late 2019. Residents will be able to hire a space (and suggest additional locations) via a website. Initial plans are for 180 lockers, each holding 5 or 6 bikes, in streets where requests have been received. For more info email activetravel@edinburgh.gov.uk

3.3 Other options

Is there a disused or vacant room or building nearby that could be used for temporary or permanent storage?







4. E-bikes, cargo bikes and trailers

4.1 E-Bikes

E-bikes are increasingly popular. Read about the remarkable experiences of new e-bike users in our factsheet, Why

E-Bike? at spokes.org.uk/documents/advice/e-bikes.

However, storing an e-bike has some considerations additional to a traditional bike...

- It is heavy (usually 25-30kg) and harder to manoeuvre than a traditional bike when pushing
- Battery charging is not a problem batteries are easily removed and can be charged from an ordinary 13amp socket
- With most modern e-bikes, an overnight charge is sufficient for most trips in one day



4.2 Cargo bikes and trailers

These come in a huge range of sizes and shapes, and many cargo-bikes are e-assist. Spokes has a web page about cargo bikes at

spokes.org.uk/documents/advice/cargo-bikes. Obviously appropriate sized, secure and accessible storage space is needed if you have a cargo bike or trailer, but some of the ideas in sections 2

and 3 above may still help.

Note - thanks to kind donations from our members Spokes currently has a scheme where we offer a contribution to community organisations in Edinburgh and the Lothians towards the cost of



Suppliers

www.cyclehoop.com A range of cycle shelters are available in a variety of finishes and include the award-winning Bikehangar - as used in Edinburgh Council's pilot storage project.

www.cycloc.com Various designs to store bikes horizontally or vertically. **www.bluetonltd.com** Local firm supplying shelters and bike racks.

FEEDBACK...

Feedback, suggestions and ideas to help others are very welcome. We'd also love to hear about actions by you or neighbours to improve bike storage.

Email: spokes@spokes.org.uk

MORE INFO ON BIKE STORAGE...

- See relevant Spokes website pages. The master page is at... spokes.org.uk/ documents/members-campaigning/edinburgh/residential-bike-storage/
- Other Cycle Campaigns are also working on this e.g. London Cycling Campaign: (search for bike storage at lcc.org.uk) and Cambridge Cycle Campaign (search for cycle parking quide at camcycle.org.uk)

MORE INFO ON CYCLING IN EDINBURGH AND LOTHIAN...

- **spokes.org.uk** Spokes fights for better conditions for using a bike for everyday journeys. Help us by joining! (click the membership tab)
- spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps We produce highly-regarded cycle maps of Edinburgh and the Lothians
- **thebikestation.org.uk** Edinburgh's bike recycling charity. Quality re-conditioned bikes at good prices.
- edinburgh.gov.uk/cycling Council cycling info
- citycyclingedinburgh.info Cycling discussion forums, info

Disclaimers

Every effort has been made to make this information as accurate as possible, but Spokes can accept no responsibility for the consequences of any errors or omissions. Mention of particular suppliers does not imply endorsement. Whilst the information here is believed to be correct at the time of going to press, there may be changes from time to time.

