

## Bike Safety: Always Lock Your Bike



- Your first line of defense from bike theft is a good lock. Lightweight cable or chain locks are easily cut and offer little protection.
- Many bikes are stolen from home (yard, porch, garage, dorm room, etc.). Store your bike in a secure place when not in use. If you are not sure your storage is secure, use your lock!
- Ask your neighbors and local bike shops about bicycle theft and safety in your area.
- Register your bike in a national database. Professional bicycle thieves frequently sell stolen bikes in other cities and states because of the difficulty in tracing owners.
- The National Bike Registry database is accessible to law enforcement throughout the country. No matter where a bike is stolen, or recovered, the owner can be identified. The NBR Certificate of Registration can be used as proof of ownership if your bike is recovered, or for your insurance claim if not.

### Basic Lock Information

- **U-Locks vs. Cables.** Lightweight cable or chain locks no longer provide adequate security in most areas. The best choice is a strong, reliable U-lock. And remember, two locks are better than one!
- Combine a cable and a U-lock, or even two U-locks. The more time and trouble it takes a thief to attack your bike, the less likely it is that your bike will become a theft statistic.
- Be sure to get a demo from a qualified professional.
- **Design Features.** Make sure that the design of the lock provides functional security. Gimmicks may look cool, but will they really protect your bike?



TWO STRONG BRANDS, ONE GREAT COMPANY.



- **Sizes.** Do not buy a larger lock than you really need. Thieves will utilize the extra space between your lock and your bike to their advantage. A tight fitting lock will make it even more difficult for thieves to get their tools into position and to attempt a break.
- **Solid Steel is the Strongest.** The ideal steel is hardened against cutting yet maintains flexibility, like Kryptonite's Kryptonium™ Steel used in the Evolution series of U-locks (New York Lock™, Evolution 2000™, and Evo Lite™).
- **Services.** Find out about the lock's performance. Does it have a good track record? A warranty? A guarantee? Lifetime key registration and prompt key replacement services?



## How to Lock Your Bike

- Always lock your bike, especially at home. More bikes are stolen from home than from any other location.
- Select a location where there are other bikes. Chances are there will be a bike with a less secure lock — or even without a lock — and thieves will usually take the unlocked bikes first.
- Always lock your bike in visible, well-lighted areas.
- Lock your bike to a fixed, immovable object like a parking meter, or a permanent bike rack that is cemented or anchored into the ground. If you use a parking meter, make sure the locked bike cannot be slipped off over the top of the pole.
- Try not to let your lock rest against the ground where a thief can use a hammer or rock to smash the lock.
- Position your bike frame and wheels so you can take up as much of the open space within the U-portion of the lock as possible. The tighter the lock up, the harder it will be for a thief to insert a prybar and pry open your lock.
- If your U-lock has its keyway on the end of the crossbar, position the lock with its keyway end facing downwards towards the ground. This makes it harder for the thief to access your lock.
- Always secure your components and accessories, especially those that can be easily removed, like quick release wheels or seats.
- If you have a multi-speed bike, leave it in the highest gear. This makes it that much harder for a thief to shift quickly and get away with your bike.
- **DON'T** ever leave a new bike unlocked. New bikes have the most value to thieves and they look for them.
- **DON'T** lock your bike to small trees, aluminum or wooden posts, or to chain link fences. These items can be easily broken or cut.
- **DON'T** lock your bike to anything posted as illegal. Check with your police department for local bicycle parking regulations.
- **DON'T** lock your bike to itself. A thief will just carry the whole bike away!