

# LOCK IT OR LOSE IT - KEEP YOUR BIKE SAFE!

## Top 10 tips to keep your bicycle secure and ensure you've always got a ride home!



**LOCK IT!** It may sound obvious but University security find a lot of bikes across the campuses that have not been locked up. This will make a bike irresistible to thieves. Plus security staff on patrol may remove unlocked bikes. You might only be leaving your bike for a minute, but it only takes a second for a thief to walk off with it, so ALWAYS lock it!

**Two locks are better than one.** To give you maximum security and peace of mind it is best to use two different locks, e.g. a D lock and a cable. This will deter thieves as it will take more time to get through two locks, but also, if they're different locks, they will more than likely need two tools to get through them. Carrying two types of tool does not appeal to most thieves!



**Cheap lock = false economy.** It's a conundrum for anyone, spend that bit extra on your bike locks, or save it for something a lot more fun! The latter may sound appealing but cheap locks really are cheap for a reason! Experiments have shown that some £3 cable locks can be breached in 1 second. Thieves know which locks are cheap and can spot them a mile off! Make that initial extra investment and save yourself time, trouble and money in the long run.

**Use bike stands, that's what they're there for!** Always lock your bike to something solid and secure. The University has thousands of U shaped bike hoops for you to use, no matter where you are on campus, use them! If this is ever not possible do NOT lock your bike a) where there is a warning sign not to lock your bike, b) to a post, even if it's got a sign higher up, the screws on the sign can be removed, c) to a drainpipe, these are easy to smash. When you take your bike home, try to always keep it indoors and locked to an immovable object if possible.



**Don't hide it.** Make sure you lock your bike in an open location. Locking it somewhere secluded or where there are few passersby will make it more attractive to thieves and also give them the time and privacy they need to steal it.

**Lock it up!** Don't allow your lock (whatever type it is) to lie on or near the floor, this will make it a lot easier for thieves to smash it.



**Lock it tight!** Thieves have to use tools to get through bike locks and you can make their life difficult. When securing your bike with your lock, ensure you do it so there is little room for manoeuvre within the lock. Secure the lock round the frame, spokes and bike stand. This will make it difficult for thieves to insert and utilise their tools.

### LOCK IT TIGHT!



### LOCK IT ALL!



**Lock it all!** You may think popping your lock round your frame is enough, but you need to be more vigilant, especially if you've got quick release wheels. If you've got two locks loop each around a wheel, the frame and a bike stand. If you've only got one, take your front wheel off and secure it to your back wheel, frame and bike stand with the lock. **NEVER LOCK YOUR BIKE JUST BY IT'S WHEELS!**



**If you can't lock it, take it off.** Always remove all bike accessories such as lights, panniers, cycle computers, etc. If a thief can't get your bike, they'll probably take these instead! Also, check if your saddle is quick release. If it is, take it with you when you leave your bike.

**Extra security.** Your bike will never be 100% safe so a little extra bit of security could potentially go a long way. Make sure you insure your bike so that, if the worst does happen, you won't be left stranded. You can also security mark (e.g. using SmartWater) and register (e.g. [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)) your bike. You can get stickers to attach to your bike to warn thieves that this has been done. If your bike does go missing, taking these steps will make it much easier for the police to track down and return it to you.

