

NATIONAL CYCLING FORUM

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The Problem

Bicycles are vulnerable to theft. They are very mobile, high enough in value to be worth stealing yet often too low in value to be worth equipping with expensive security devices. They can also be hard to identify and easy to disguise.

Basic Security Rules for Cycle Users

- Do not leave cycles in isolated places
- Park cycles safely and considerately where they will not cause a danger or obstruction to others - particularly to older people, young children, or people with disabilities
- Always lock a cycle when leaving it, even if it's only for a few minutes
- Secure bikes to proper cycle stands or robust street furniture (but do observe any requests not to use certain items of street furniture and be sure not to cause any damage)
- Lock cycles through the frame
- Secure or remove wheels
- Remove smaller parts and accessories that can't be secured, especially lights, pumps and quick release saddles

Security Products for Cycle Owners

Making sure that a cycle is secure when it is left, even if only for a few minutes, is an important part of deterring theft. A range of security products is available including:

- Chains and Locks
 - Cable Locks
 - D-shackles
- Used for securing cycles to a suitable anchor.
- Ground or Wall Anchors - For maximum security a ground or wall anchor can be installed in a garage, shed or garden



Examples of security devices



If buying a second hand cycle, make sure the seller really owns it. If you think it is stolen, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. If the cycle is marked and registered, contact the register and check it is a genuine sale.

Sold Secure was set up by the police with the backing of the Home Office, and aims to help cyclists choose the right level of security protection for their cycles. It is a non-profit making organisation, supported by the Master Locksmith's Association. Sold Secure has investigated some of the cycle products available -

testing security products to destruction. Each security device is then graded into one of three categories:

Bronze - Products offering theft resistance against the basic tool list for at least one minute (aimed at preventing opportunist crime)

Silver - Products offering theft resistance against an enhanced tool list for at least three minutes (aimed at preventing more determined attacks)

Gold - Products offering theft resistance against the full tool list for at least five minutes (aimed at preventing dedicated attacks)



Example of registration

Security Marking and Registration

Security marking and registration can act as a deterrent to theft, and help the police return a stolen cycle to its correct owner. Registration will also allow potential buyers of a second-hand bicycle to confirm that the machine has not been stolen. The National Cycling Forum has established a code of practice for companies who wish to offer property marking and registration. This code, published as a free leaflet by the Home Office, is intended to help cyclists choose an effective method of marking and registering their property

Summary of the Security Marking and Registration Code of Practice

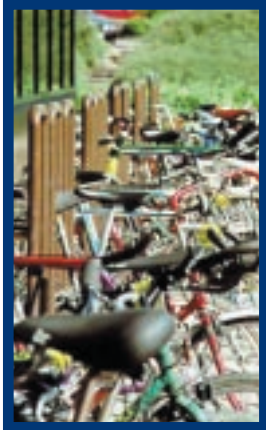
A security marking should:

Be clearly visible - hidden marks don't deter theft unless they are backed up by visible ones, for example a tamper proof label

Be securely fixed - if a mark comes off easily and leaves no trace it won't deter a thief.

Ideally be on two separate parts of the bicycle and not on any part of it which is easily removable.

Give clear information that will allow the police to quickly identify the registration company, and the company to identify the owner of the cycle.



A complete list of approved security products, which can help cyclists choose the right protection for their cycles, can be found on the Sold Secure website at www.soldsecure.com or obtained from Crime Prevention Officers at local police stations.

Cycle parking at Hewlett Packard, Bristol. Photo courtesy of Hewlett Packard

Home Security

It is usually thought that cycles are most likely to be stolen while they are left in a public place. However, in a survey by the Transport Research Laboratory, more than half the thefts recorded happened on the owner's property. (Source - TRL Report 284)

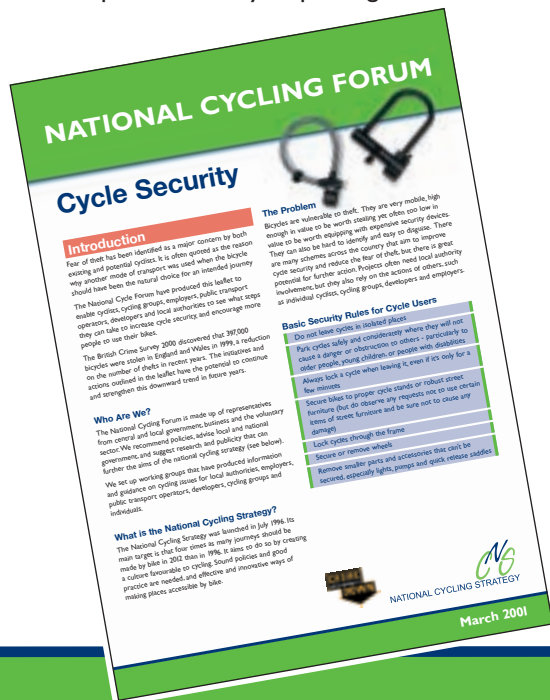
Owners of more expensive cycles may wish to consider fitting ground or wall anchors or installing cycle lockers. Information on such security products will be available from many local cycle shops or from manufacturers.

There are several companies offering marking kits and registration to the consumer, and these may be available through local cycle shops. It is important to check that what is offered conforms to the Code of Practice.

Cycles can also be marked with a postcode, together with a house or flat number or the first two letters of a house name. This can be a simple and unique way of marking property, although it won't have the added security of a registration system, and won't offer the quickest method of reuniting an owner with their bike. Many bike shops and local crime prevention offices will be able to give advice on suitable forms of security marking.

For further information

More information on cycle security, particularly aimed at those responsible for cycle parking.



Acknowledgement

This leaflet has been produced by members of the National Cycling Forum's Cycle Security Working Group.

The National Cycling Forum is made up of representatives from central and local government, business and the voluntary sector. We work to further the aims of the National Cycling Strategy.

The National Cycling Strategy was launched in July 1996. Its main target is that four times as many journeys should be made by bike in 2012 than in 1996. It aims to do so by creating a culture favourable to cycling.

References

Traffic Advisory Leaflet 4/00, Cycling Bibliography - DETR, 2000

Code of Practice for Security Marking and Registration of Pedal Cycles - Home Office 1998

Stop Them Taking your Bike for a Ride, advice on cycle security - Home Office, 1998

Keep your Bike Secure - Sold Secure

Cycle Theft in Great Britain Report 284 - Transport Research Laboratory 1997

Cycle Security - NCF, 2001

The National Cycling Strategy is available electronically on the website of the Department of the Environment, Transport & the Regions (DETR) at <http://www.detr.gov.uk/ncs/ncs.htm>

Home Office Crime Reduction website www.crimereduction.gov.uk