

# Prevent Bike Theft

Every year we see many bikes stolen. Our goal is to reduce the number of bikes stolen each year. We also want you to have the information we need to return your bike if it is recovered.

## How can you reduce the chance of your bike being stolen?

- Always bring your bike inside at night. It may be a hassle to lug it up a flight of stairs, but many bikes are stolen at night because there are fewer eyes and ears around to deter thieves.
- Use a high quality security lock ( it should have gold solid secure rating).
- Park your bike in well lit areas.
- Try not to park in the same place each day
- Be wary of cable locks, which are easily chopped with wire cutters. They might be enough to deter passing thieves and opportunists, but they are ineffective against seasoned thieves.
- Two or three locks (even cables) are better than one. The more difficult you can make it look to steal your bike, the less a thief will want to hassle with it.
- Never lock your bike to a tree. Not only can it damage the tree, but any tree that's small enough to fit a U-lock is small enough for thieves to cut through quickly.
- Park your bike with other bikes when you lock it up. If you have a good-quality lock and other cyclists have poorer security, their bikes will be targeted first.
- Don't forget to lock your wheels and your saddle. Quick releases and hex bolts make it easy for thieves to snatch these components.
- Lock up your bikes even inside your garage, and be sure they are locked to some fixed point like a pipe or rafter.
- Keep a file on all of your bikes that includes receipts, serial numbers, and photos. And register each bike in a nationwide database like the [National Bike Registry](#) or <https://reportit.leadsonline.com> (you can register all personal property this way!) so it can be returned to you if it's ever stolen and recovered.
- Consider investing in a GPS tracking device, such as the [Helios handlebar](#), the [Spot Trace](#), or [BikeTrak](#).
- If you are on Strava and other social fitness platforms, mask your exact location to public users. Savvy thieves have been known to target homes by tracking athletes who upload frequently.

Please take our Survey  
<http://stpaul.gov/PoliceCommunitySurvey>

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