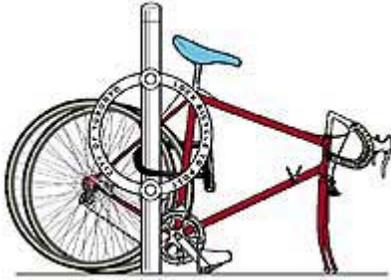


BICYCLE THEFT PREVENTION

Bicycle theft is a growing problem and you can be part of the solution. Nothing can ruin your day faster than a thief stealing your bike. Here are some steps you can take to keep that from happening.



Lock your bicycle



This seems like common knowledge but many bikes are left unattended and unlocked for long periods of time. Always lock your bike regardless of where it is stored (even in a shed or garage). When you do not lock it, you just make a thief's job easier.

Use a good ½" cable lock and U-lock through the frame and wheels or use two U-locks to make it even harder to steal. This will make it more difficult and time consuming to steal.

Always lock your bike in a visible, well lit, high traffic area. Lock your bike to an immovable object such as a bike rack that is anchored to the ground. Do not lock your bike to items that can be readily cut, broken or removed. Speak with your local bike shop for advice on the type of lock for your bike.



**How not to lock your bike up.
(Photo J. Maus, Portland)**

Remove the seat

Removing the seat can be a deterrent to a potential thief. The thief will not want to be seen riding without a seat.

Remove the front wheel (quick release style only)

By doing this, the thief now must carry the bicycle which is even more suspicious looking.

Bicycle identification

Check your sales receipt or your bicycle for the serial number. The serial number is on the bike frame. The serial number is usually found under the crank, chain stay, seat stay, down tube or the seat tube.



If you do not have a serial number, engrave a unique number (not your S.I.N. or OHIP) onto your bike to help police identify the owner.

Register and record

Take the time to register your bicycle with the Toronto Police Service. Describe your bicycle on the form, submit it, print it and store the information in a safe place. You will need to report this information to the police if your bike is stolen.

<https://bike.torontopolice.on.ca/BicycleRegistry/>

Report it

If your bicycle is stolen, report it to the Toronto Police Service at 416-808-2222 as soon as possible. Reporting the theft along with registering it increases your chances of recovery.



Bicycle maintenance

Keeping your bicycle in good condition will prevent expensive repairs and reduce the chance of an accident while cycling.



- Inspect your tires for the correct pressure and signs of wear
- Check brakes for excessive wear. Check your rims are free of dirt and oil so the brakes can grip

- Lubricate the chain and all moving parts. Adjust the chain so there is no more than 2 cm (3/4 inch) of play. If it is worn so it cannot be properly adjusted, replace it.
- All nuts bolts and fasteners should be checked for tightness regularly
- Install a bell/horn, light and reflectors and test them
- A professional annual tune up is recommended

Bicycle rules (brief overview)

- Cyclist under 18 are required by law to wear an approved bicycle helmet when riding a bike either on the roadway or sidewalk in Ontario (parents can be charged for their children who are under 16 years riding without a bicycle helmet)
- Use hand signals to indicate you are stopping, turning right or left
- Ride on the right side of the road or path and be aware of your surroundings, be courteous and share the road
- Stop for pedestrians at a crosswalk. Walk your bike when using crosswalks to cross the street
- Stop for school buses that are stopped with their upper red light flashing and the stop arm extended
- Comply with traffic signs and signal lights
- Your bike must have a white light to the front and a red light or red reflector to the rear if you ride a half hour before sunset and a half hour before sunrise
- White reflective tape on front forks and red reflective tape on the seat stays
- Your bike must be equipped with a bell or horn in good working order
- Cyclist must identify themselves when stopped by police for violations of the traffic laws
- No passengers on a bicycle designed for one person



REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR BIKE!

<https://bike.torontopolice.on.ca/BicycleRegistry/>

