

Bike Security Tips

Secured by Design



Official Police Security Initiative

There are around 300,000 bikes stolen each year, with 60% of all bike thefts occurring when the owner didn't secure their bike, either forgetting to or thinking that it was safe. While large quantities of believed to be stolen bikes are recovered each year, the police are unable to return them or prosecute offenders as the owner cannot be traced.

Secured by Design (SBD), the official police security initiative, have put together tips to help you keep your bike safe and secure, both at work and at home.



Register it

Register your bike on a secure, SBD recognised national database. A bike carrying a database stamp is a highly effective, visible deterrent to bike thieves as they know that if they are caught with a registered bike they will be arrested, as the owner can be traced by the police within seconds.

Record it

Remember to record as many details of your bike as you can, such as the make/model, frame number (normally found underneath the bike between the pedals or where the back wheel slots in), plus any other distinguishing features, and take a photo.

Security mark it

Security marking your bike using a SBD recognised asset marking or etching kit is another highly effective, visible deterrent to thieves.

Remove the removable bits

Take parts that are easy to remove with you, such as the seat. Or use locking skewers or nuts which can increase security by securing the bike's components to the frame permanently, making it difficult for thieves to steal detachable parts.

Keep valuables secure when cycling

Always keep your valuables secure when cycling. Don't put them in open baskets or panniers.

Be aware of your surroundings

Always pay attention to your surroundings, especially whilst stationary. Thieves target unsuspecting cyclists for both their valuables and their bikes.

Double-lock it, secure it and lock the lot

It can take thieves as little as a few seconds to cut through some locks that haven't achieved the Police Preferred Specification. Double locking is the best protection for locking any bike. However, we recognise this is not always possible or practicable at times. Whatever the type of lock, look for the SBD logo or see the SBD approved list at the bottom of the page. Secure your bike as close to the stand as possible to give any thieves little or no room to manoeuvre. Lock the frame and both wheels to the cycle parking stand. Locks are considered more vulnerable when they come into contact with the ground, so keep them off the floor.

Remember safety begins at home

This is very important to remember, as many bikes are stolen at home. Take the same care to lock your bike securely at home as you would on the street. Lock your bike as described above in a securely locked garage or shed ensuring either is well maintained and the bike is hidden from view. A number of SBD companies supply bike storage sheds. As additional measures, ground anchors can be used together with shed or garage alarms. You may wish to consider bringing your bike indoors if you don't have appropriately secure external storage.

How to choose the right bike lock

Buying a bike lock should not be an afterthought. In the UK, the average cost of a bike is approximately £500 and an e-bike is £2,500 so it needs some protection.

Questions you should ask are:

Will the bike lock perform its job?

Buying a cycle lock without an approved security test is just not worth it.

How can you identify a quality lock?

A quality lock is one that has been accredited with the Police Preferred Specification.

Will it protect my bike?

An accredited bike lock will act as a strong deterrent to any thief.

At SBD we insist on security standards for cycle security products with the aim of reducing and preventing the theft of bikes. Various test methods are used to determine resistance against attack using the sort of tools that a thief may use to steal a bike.

Secure Cycle Locks

Buying and using a single SBD approved product with a high-security rating will provide better protection than using two untested products without security testing.

Choosing the security level or type of lock is down to individual circumstance and personal preference as we all use our bikes in different ways.

Whether you are cycling in a city with good provision of cycle parking, out cycling with the children in a country park with no cycle stands to lock your bike, or on a mountain biking trail in a national park, you need to choose the right type of lock for the activity and situation. Style, weight, and security grade will all be a factor.

All SBD approved cycle locks have been independently accredited to the **Sold Secure** standard run by the Master Locksmiths Association.

Sold Secure test to four grades, with Diamond being the highest grade:

 Bronze	 Silver	 Gold	 Diamond
These products offer defence against the opportunist thief	This offers a compromise between security and cost	These products are aimed at those mid-to-high level value bikes	The highest level of security aimed at high-value bikes and e-bikes

If you wish to find out more information, please visit the Sold Secure website: <https://www.soldsecure.com/>



Park secure

When parking your bike in a public place you need to consider many factors, including your own personal safety and the security of your bike.

Lock your bike at recognised secure cycle parking. It should be well lit, overlooked and if possible covered by CCTV.

Secured cycle hubs and racks are provided by local councils and businesses. However, while some of these products are security tested, others are not so be wary. You can find details of racks and stands which are supplied by SBD member companies and have achieved Police Preferred Specification below.

- Avoid leaving your bike in isolated or dimly lit places, always leave your bike where a potential thief will have to perform in public!
- Do not lock your bike to an open-ended structure such as a signpost – thieves just lift the bike over the top of it.
- Avoid locking your bike against a gate or wall, thieves will often use leverage against the wall or gate to break the bike lock.
- Electric Bikes (e-bikes) are very expensive, so try not to leave them in the same place on a regular basis as they may be noticed and stolen to order by a determined thief. You should also consider removing the battery if you can. Cycle lockers are a good option if storing your e-bike in a public place.

Insurance

Check that you have adequate cover under your household insurance for theft of bikes and that this extends to cover theft from outbuildings or sheds. You should also check that the sum insured is adequate given the high value of some bikes and e-bikes.

For further advice about any of the security tips listed above, or to find out how to buy police recognised security products, visit www.securedbydesign.com

