

# How to Lock Up Your Bike!

This guide is intended to provide you with a rundown on bicycle locking dos and don'ts. While nothing can fully protect your bicycle from theft, there are a few best practices that you can adopt to ensure maximum security while you are off your bike.

## Types of Locks

Locks come in many sizes and shapes, and all provide at least some degree of security. Below are examples of the most common forms of locks you may find at your local bike shop:

### Chain Lock



Pros

- Difficult to Cut
- Difficult to Pick (usually)
- Can secure frame and wheels

Cons

- Typically heavy
- Less Portable

### U-Lock



Pros

- Difficult to Cut
- Difficult to Pick (usually)
- Highly portable

Cons

- Cannot secure both wheels
- Cannot interface with thicker structures (e.g., streetlights)

### Cable Lock



Pros

- Portable and lightweight
- Good for quick stops
- Can secure both wheels

Cons

- Easily cut

## Lock Structures



Your bike is only as secure as what you are locking to! A heavy, solid structure that is firmly anchored to the ground will ensure would-be thieves cannot bypass your lock by simply attacking the structure itself.

Bike racks are placed all around the city and should be your go-to whenever available. For overnight storage, we strongly recommend bringing your bike inside if you are able to.



If dedicated racks are unavailable, look for street signs and streetlights in well-lit areas. Keep in mind that handicap parking signs are not suitable as a bicycle may block access for wheelchair ramps. Never block a sidewalk with your bicycle.

Avoid locking to trees and fences. Trees are living organisms and may be damaged by a metal frame and lock. Fences are typically private property and bikes locked to them may be impounded without notice.

## Technique

A superior lock-up job will directly secure the frame of the bicycle to a structure. Using a U-Lock, route the shackle around the locking structure, the rear wheel, and the seat tube (the vertical tube) of the frame. Supplement with a small cable lock to secure the front wheel to the frame.



## Stuff on your bike?

Items that you may have attached to the bicycle, such as lights, bags, and water bottles, should be removed and taken with you. If it can be removed without a tool, either take it with you or secure it to the bicycle!

