



# Securing your bike

Advice from Nottinghamshire Police's Pre Crime Unit

To speak to us call **101** or in an emergency dial **999**



nottspolice



nottspolice

[www.nottinghamshire.police.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk)

Sign up for advice and crime alerts at [www.nottinghamshirealert.co.uk](http://www.nottinghamshirealert.co.uk)

# Securing Your Bike

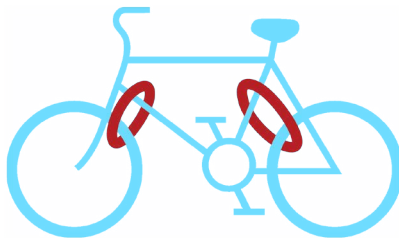
Bicycles are often targeted by thieves because they are left poorly secured or not secured at all. It takes just a few seconds for the opportunist to steal a bike that is left unsecured.

Over 2,000 bikes are stolen in Nottinghamshire every year, with half of all bicycle thefts from an owner's property. So as well as taking care of your bike when you are out and about, you should think about how safe it is at home.

Follow this advice to protect your bike from being stolen, make it harder to sell on and to increase the chances of it being returned to you if it is stolen.

## Securing your bicycle out and about

- Always ensure you lock your cycle wherever you leave it even if only for a minute or two.
- Lock 'tight' so that your bike is difficult to move around when it is parked.
- Rigid locks with hardened shackles are advised, such as D locks, as these are difficult to crop. Cable locks, although easy to use and carry owing to being lightweight, by their very nature are easy to crop.
- The recommended way to secure your cycle is to double lock is as per the image below. with both wheels and the frame locked to a cycle stand or another immovable object.



- Always park your bike where it can be seen clearly. Use designated parking areas or secure cycle storage wherever possible.
- When possible, don't leave your bike in the same place every day.
- Make it impossible for a thief to smash the lock open. Fill the 'D' part of your lock with as much of the bike as possible.
- Never leave the lock lying on the ground where it could be smashed easily.
- Remove any items that can be taken without using tools, for example, wheels, lights, pump, computer, panniers, seat post and saddle.

## **Securing your bicycle at home**

- Secure your garden so there is no free access. If you have a gate, make sure you can lock it.
- Keep your bike in a secure shed or garage and get into the habit of keeping the door locked. Consider purchasing a shed alarm.
- Always make sure that your shed is locked and secure - should preferably be with a close shackled lock (to prevent cropping) or an alarmed padlock. Choose padlocks that state "hardened".
- Secure it to an immovable object, or consider installing a floor or wall-mounted anchor lock for extra security.
- If you are going to keep your bike in a communal area, is there anything you can lock it to?
- Keep it out of public view.

**Always lock your bicycle, even if you are just leaving it for a couple of minutes.**

## Get your bike insured

Check that your home contents insurance covers your bicycle. Ensure it covers you for thefts away from home, if not extend the policy to include it. If your bicycle is particularly valuable, you may need to insure it separately.

## Property marking

Property marking systems may not prevent your bike from being stolen, however, they are a deterrent and will improve the chances of it being returned to you if it is stolen.

A number of bike marking products are available.

It is recommended that you use a marking product that is "Police Preferred Specification" such as Bike Register, Data Tag and Selectamark. A visible marking product is best as it is more of a deterrent. Other options include Cre Mark, or using a UV postcode pen however with a UV pen bear in mind that there is no visible deterrent although it does help identification.

When you are marking your bike, consider the following:

- The marking should be easily seen, as a deterrent to thieves.
- Ensure the marking is clear and concise.
- Do not mark any part of the bike that is easy to remove or replace.

# Follow the three R's

## Record

Always take a clear colour photograph of your bike, keep a record of the bike's frame number, make and any other marks that can identify your bike if it is stolen and later recovered by police.

If you can't find the frame number try looking:

- Near the handlebars
- Below the seat post
- By or underneath the pedals
- Towards the back wheel

## Register

Ensure you register your bike's details at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) or [www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com)

## Report

- If your bike is stolen, contact the police immediately.
- If your bike is registered on a property database, provide police with the unique code
- Inform your insurance company

# Bike Passport

Complete the below and keep in a safe place for reference

<b>Bike Details</b>	
Make	
Model	
Type	
Property database ref number	
bike serial number	
location of serial number	
colour	
frame size	
Wheel size	
Tyres	
Gears	
Accessories	
Identifying marks	

## **Useful Cycling Links**

### **[www.thebigwheel.org.uk](http://www.thebigwheel.org.uk)**

The Big Wheel is all about getting around Greater Nottingham using the sustainable network of trams, trains, buses, walking and cycling.

### **[www.citycardnottingham.co.uk/cycle](http://www.citycardnottingham.co.uk/cycle)**

Citycard Cycles is a cycle facilities scheme launched by Nottingham City Council. The scheme comprises ten cycle hubs providing a range of services, from secure cycle parking with improved customer facilities to an electronic cycle hire service, all accessed using your Nottingham Citycard.

### **[www.cyclescheme.co.uk](http://www.cyclescheme.co.uk)**

Cyclescheme enables your employees to get a bike tax-free, saving on average about half the cost. It's completely free to join, and easy to administer online

# TO PROTECT IT REGISTER IT

Register your property for FREE and improve your chance of getting it back if it is lost or stolen

**IMMOBILISE  
PROPERTY CRIME**

[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)