



## STAY BIKE SAFE

**Bicycle Theft in Bedfordshire has decreased in recent years but we would still like to see a further drop in incidents. Just taking a few moments to review your bicycle security and investing in the proper equipment could save you a lot of unnecessary expense and worry.**

It doesn't really matter how much you spend on your bike as a cheap one will be missed just as much as an expensive one if this is your usual mode of transport. So please mark it and register it with one of the police recognised schemes and databases.

Also make a note of the frame number, which can usually be found underneath the bottom bracket or on the rear forks. Most of the databases allow you to record other details, such as the make, model, and colour of the



bike and other distinguishing features; all of which is worthwhile

The police do actually recover many thousands of bikes each year, but because very few of them are security marked or registered with an online database very few are returned to the owners. The police usually keep them for 6 weeks, and if not claimed by the owners, they are auctioned with the money raised going to various charities.

Of course, having your bike stolen is not just about the material loss of the bike, it's the inconvenience and added costs associated with it. Not only that, but bike theft is one of the most often stated reasons for giving up cycling, second only to road safety.

### Bike security at home

Over half of all bicycle thefts take place on the owner's property, from garages, sheds and gardens. Make sure the place you keep your bike is secure and consider installing a steel loop or fixed anchor point to a wall for locking your bike. If this isn't possible, keep your bike out of sight (even if it's inside the house or flat) so it can't be seen by opportunist thieves.

### Here is a checklist of things you can do:

- Always lock your bike if leaving it unattended.
- Choose a place to lock your bike where there are lots of people and a high level of natural surveillance.
- Invest in a good quality lock. D-shaped are usually the best.
- Add your bike to your home contents insurance .
- Lock both the wheel and frame to make your bike more secure.
- Make sure that any quick release and detachable items such as wheels, saddles and lights are either secured or taken with you.
- If your bike is stolen, report it immediately! Visit your local police station or call **101**.
- Register your bike through an approved scheme such as those shown below:

<http://www.immobilise.com/> is a free national registration database for cycles and other personal property.

<http://www.bikeregister.com/> call: 01689 862708 offers a variety of affordable registration schemes which also include tamper proof stickers, a cycle marking pack and a transferable ownership log book.

If you suspect someone in your area is trading stolen bikes call **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111** or contact your local Trading Standards Office

## Whatever type of bike, keep it secure.