

# BICYCLE SECURITY TIPS

bradystreetareaassociation.org

**BRADY  
STREET  
AREA  
ASSOCIATION**

## Keep your bike safe!

Select a location where there are other bike and in areas with foot traffic if possible. Lock your bike in a well-lit area where a thief won't be able to hide.

Also, don't routinely lock to the same spot day after day. A determined thief might "mark" your bike, round up the tools to steal it and take it.

**A: Position your bike frame and wheels so that you fill up or take up as much of the open space within the lock's U portion as possible.** The tighter the lock up, the harder it will be for a thief to insert a pry bar and pry open your lock. Notice here that 2 different locks are used.

**B: Lock to a fixed, immovable object, a parking meter; or a permanent bike rack cemented or anchored into the ground.** It must prevent a thief from slipping the locked bike off over the top of the pole. Beware of locking to items that can easily be cut, broken or removed.

**C: Always secure your components and accessories,** especially those that can be easily removed, such as quick-release wheels and seats. Use your cable lock on these items looping it through them first and then through your U-lock. Alternatively, replace quick release with bolts or security bolts..

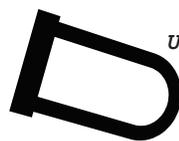
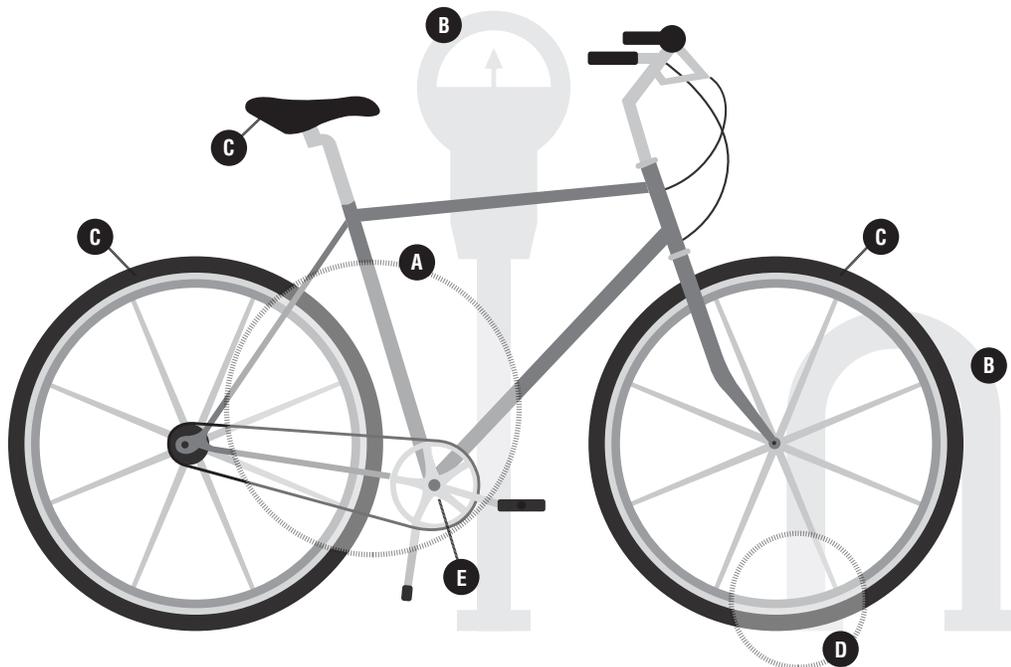
**D: Try not to let your lock rest against the ground where a thief can smash the lock.** And, if your U-lock has its keyway on the end of the crossbar, place the lock with its keyway end facing down toward the ground. This makes it harder for the thief to access the keyway.

**Buy high-quality locks.** Cheap locks will only waste your money and give you a false sense of security. Use a high quality U-lock, folding steel bar lock, or hardened-steel chain lock.

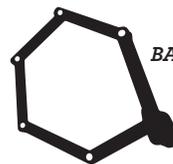
**Register your key number(s) with the lock company that made your lock.** Many companies offer lifetime key registration and 24-hour key-replacement services. Write down your key numbers and/or lock combination and put them in a handy file with your bike registration information, purchase receipts and other important documents.

**Thieves look for unlocked bikes.** Always keep your bike locked: at home, in the dorm, everywhere. They may be thieves, but they're not dumb. In high-theft areas, 2 locks are better than 1. Combine a cable and a U-lock or other high security lock. The more time and trouble it takes a thief to attack your bike, the less likely your bike will be stolen.

**Consistency.** Lock up every time. It's always the one time you don't lock it up that your bike is stolen.



U-LOCK



BAR LOCK



HARDENED-STEEL  
CHAIN LOCK

## Milwaukee Bicycle Registry

Milwaukee residents can register bicycles with the city of Milwaukee. To register your bicycle, just visit the nearest Milwaukee Police Department District station or any Milwaukee Public Library, and ask for a bicycle license sticker.

A bicycle license sticker may also be obtained by mail from the city License Division. Once the sticker is obtained log on to [city.milwaukee.gov/city-clerk/bicycle-license](http://city.milwaukee.gov/city-clerk/bicycle-license), click on the "Activate Bicycle License" link and then enter the registration number from the sticker, serial number (E) and information. This page also allows residents to activate their licenses and change bicycle ownership.

Registration is free and is valid for as long as the bicycle is owned by the person activating the license.

## National Bicycle Registry

Of the thousands of bikes police recover each year; the only ones that we're sure are going home are the ones registered with the National Bike Registry. Since the NBR started protecting bicycles in 1984, its recovery rate is 100%. Every time a police officer has recovered a bike registered with the NBR, it's been returned to its owner. What's more, the National Bike Registry is the only bike-registration system that works across state lines. So, if your bicycle is stolen in California and turns up in Illinois, they can get it back to you. No one else, not even the police are set up to do that. For more information:

**The National Bike Registry 2855 Telegraph Ave.,  
Suite 304 Berkeley, CA 94705 | 1-800-848-BIKE**