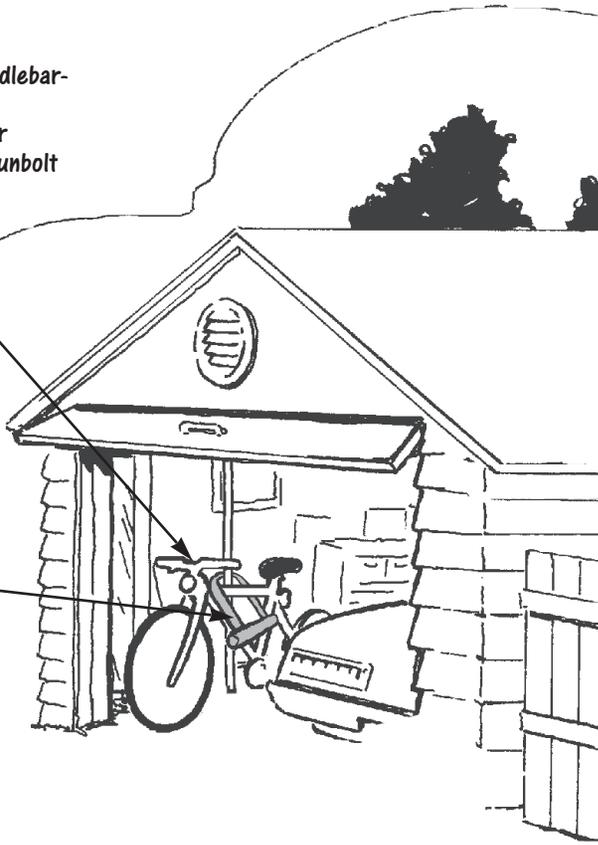


PARTS: SEAL THEM

Plug the head of your handlebar-release bolt with silicone adhesive, epoxy, or rubber cement so a thief cannot unbolt your handlebars. When you need to, remove the plug with a knife.

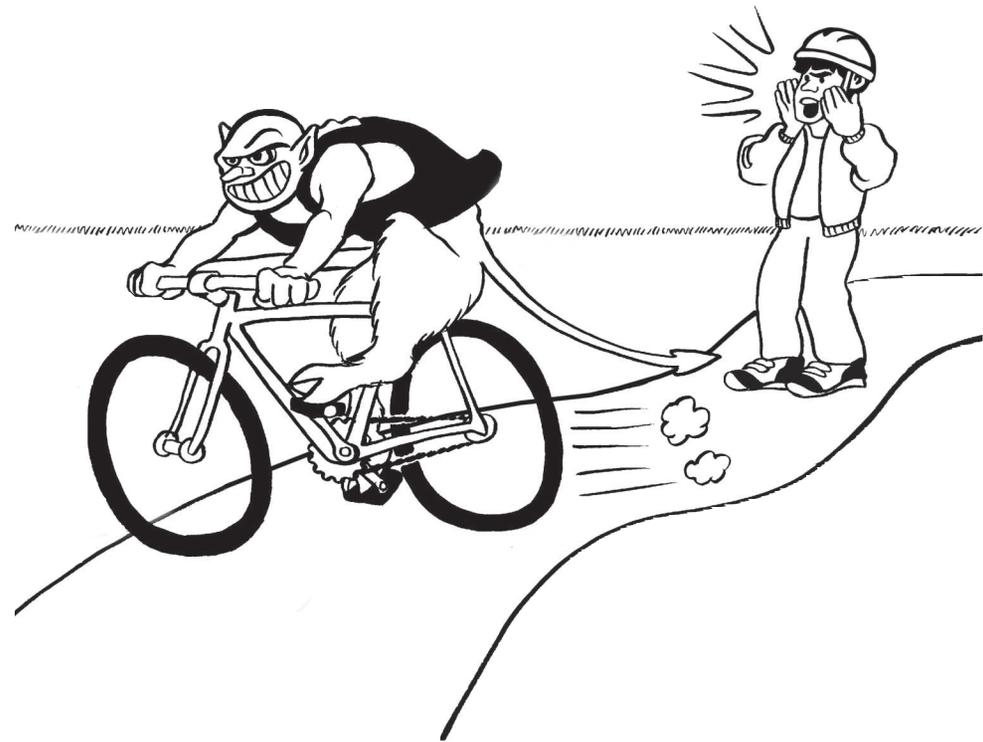
LOCK IN STORAGE

In the U.S., about a fifth of bike thefts occur in residences. If you keep your bike in a garage, basement, or on a porch, lock it.



Locking Your Bike

Reliable tips for stopping thieves



Funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Safety.
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Visit www.chicagobikes.org, www.dot.state.il.us/bikemap/bikehome.html
or www.activetrans.org for more information.

Cross locking is best

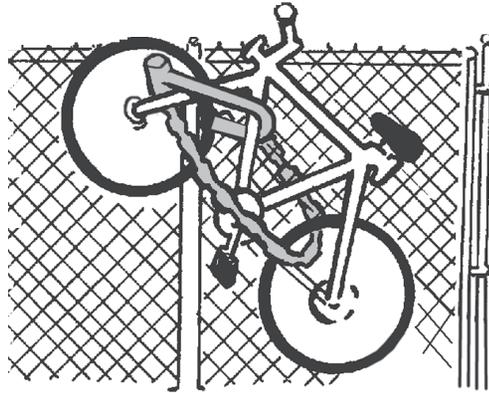
Because most people only use one lock, you should use two. That way, a thief will go for somebody else's bike.

GOOD

Put one lock through your frame and rear tire, and put the second through your frame and front tire.

BETTER

Use two different types of locking devices. A good strong, U-shaped lock can hold the frame and front wheel. A separate, thick cable (or chain) with a thick padlock can secure both wheels and the frame. Rather than take the extra effort, a thief will target someone else's bike.

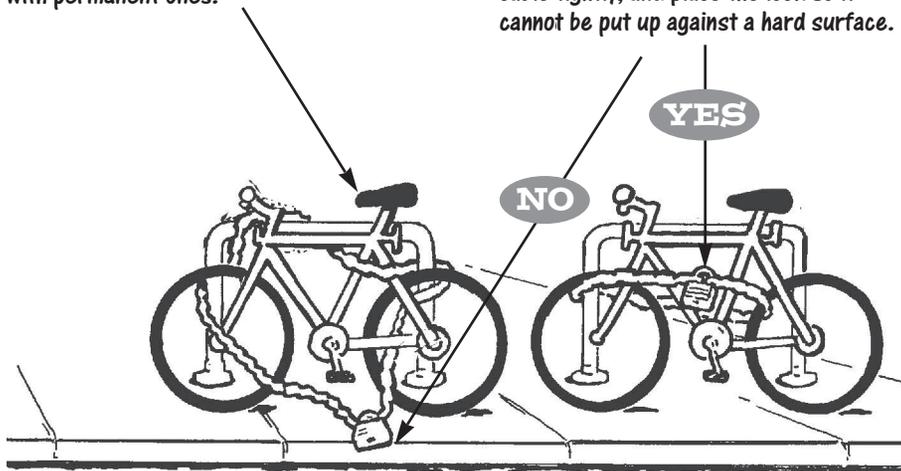


TAKE THEM WITH

Remove any parts you cannot lock and a thief could grab easily: a quick-release seat, horn, bike bag, pump, water bottle or lights. If removing quick-release parts is a hassle, replace them with permanent ones.

LOCKS IN SPACE

Thieves can open some locks by hitting them with a hammer. But to break the lock, the lock must be placed against something hard, like a wall or sidewalk. If you use a padlock, wrap your chain or cable tightly, and place the lock so it cannot be put up against a hard surface.



Always lock

You need good, reliable locks to stop thieves from stealing your bike. But the way you lock is just as important.

Never, never leave your bike unlocked—even if you leave it for only half a minute. A thief can grab your bike in seconds.

LOCK TO FIXED OBJECTS

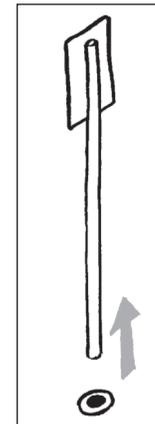
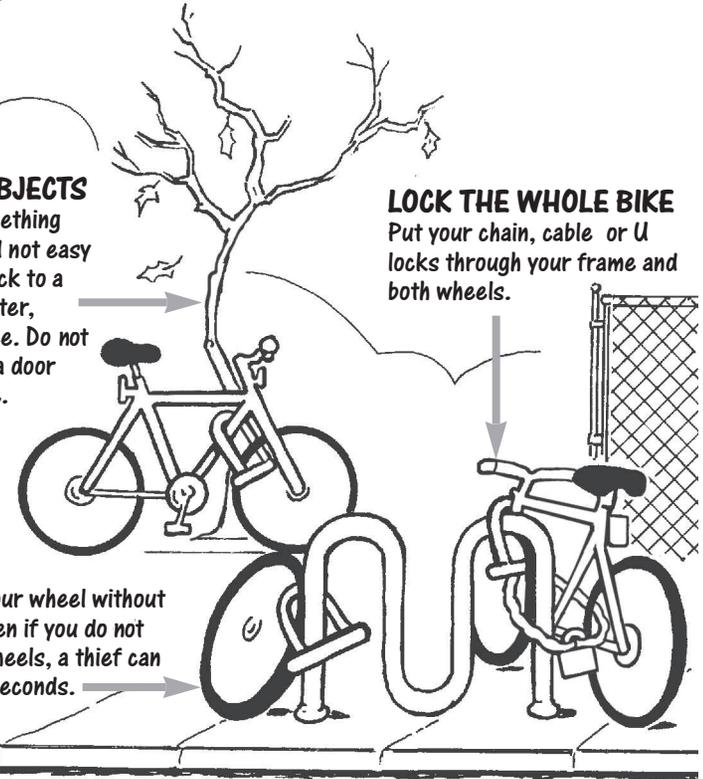
Lock your bike to something that is permanent and not easy for a thief to take. Lock to a bike rack, parking meter, metal fence or big tree. Do not lock to another bike, a door handle or a small tree.

LOCK THE WHOLE BIKE

Put your chain, cable or U locks through your frame and both wheels.

WHEELIZE

Never lock through your wheel without locking the frame. Even if you do not have quick-release wheels, a thief can unbolt your wheel in seconds.



SUCKER POLES

Before you lock to a sign pole, check whether a thief can pull it out of its base.



Take the front wheel off, if you have to. This is easier with quick-release wheels.