

# CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

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911 /EMERGENCY  
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[www.cityofevanston.org/police/](http://www.cityofevanston.org/police/)



## **Bike Theft Prevention Strategies**

Getting around the city by bicycle is generally free and easy, but the cloud of bike theft is always hanging overhead -- unfortunately, bicycles are very easy to steal, and they make the perfect getaway vehicle. You can't make your bike absolutely theft-proof on the street (and even indoors isn't always as secure as you'd think), but with some thought and preparation you can protect your bike and lock it up with confidence.



To Prevent & Reduce the Threat of Falling Victim of a Crime While Away, Here Are a Few Tips:

### **PARKING & LOCKING BASICS**

- **The first rule:** **ALWAYS LOCK IT!** Never ever leave your bike unlocked even if you're leaving it for a short time. A thief can grab your bike in seconds.
- **Security:** Lock your bike to something that's permanent and not easy for a thief to take. Lock to a bicycle rack, a parking meter, a metal fence post, or a large tree. Don't lock to another bike, a door handle, or small tree. And if you keep your bike in a garage, basement, or on a porch, lock it.
- **Serial No:** Write down the serial number and keep it in a safe place.
- **Register:** Register your bike online with the City of Evanston at: [www.cityofevanston.org/police/bicycle-registration/](http://www.cityofevanston.org/police/bicycle-registration/)
- **Visibility:** Park in open areas where many people pass by and your bicycle can be seen easily. Thieves usually don't like an audience. **Keep It Close By:** Put your bike where you can get to it fast. Thieves like to steal bikes whose owners are far away.

### **WHAT LOCKING HARDWARE SHOULD YOU USE?**

- **U Locks:** As has been in the news recently, many Kryptonite locks have been easily broken. There are similar brands sold which have a different locking mechanism inside. Although they may look similar outside, they are less easily broken.
- Some U locks are stronger than others; make sure you buy a strong steel alloy lock. If the manufacturer offers a warranty or insurance, register the lock and write down the lock's serial number and when you bought it. *One drawback to U locks:* you can't lock up to thick objects such as street lights; so for these, carry a thick cable.
- **Padlocks & Chains:** Look for anti-theft security chains; the thicker, the better. Chain links and lock clasps should be at least 3/8 of an inch thick. Look for locks and chains that are case-hardened--a process that makes them harder to cut.
- **Cables:** Some cables are actually harder to cut than chains, because they don't snap and thieves can't pry them open. Use a cable at least 3/8 of an inch thick with a lock as thick, or thicker.

**[FOR ADDITIONAL INFO., CONTACT THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIES BUREAU AT 847-866-5019](http://www.cityofevanston.org/police/)**