



## DON'T BE A VICTIM OF BIKE THEFT – HELP US HELP YOU

Last school year UTD had over 30 bike thefts – protect your property!

### RECORD THE MAKE, MODEL AND SERIAL NUMBER OF YOUR BIKE

Unless you're a bike nut, there's a good chance you'll forget the make and model of your bike, so write them down and add them to your file. Most importantly, **find and record the SERIAL NUMBER of your bike**. This serial number is *the* most important piece of information you have because it is the only way of identifying a bike beyond all doubt. You could have all the receipts, loads of photos and a full description, but there is no way to *definitively* prove a specific stolen bike is yours if you don't have the serial number.

All bikes have a unique serial number, usually engraved beneath the bottom bracket, but sometimes in other locations. It is usually around 10-13 characters and is IN the frame of the bike. Flip your bike over, find the number and write it down.

Common Bike Serial Number Locations



1. ACROSS THE TOP BAR
2. ON THE SEAT POST MAST
3. ON THE LOWER BAR
4. ON THE HANGER CRANK NEAR THE SPROCKET
5. ON ONE OF THE REAR FORKS (Left or Right)
6. ON ONE OF THE REAR STAYS (Left or Right)



It's worth repeating: The serial number is the most important piece of information you have. If you don't know what yours is yet... **Go and find your serial number now!**

### TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR BIKE

Take a photo of your bike when you buy it. Take more photos of any distinguishing marks and take photos again as its appearance changes over time (for example when you add accessories).

Again, these photos help to prove your ownership, but if your bike is stolen, you can also distribute them to the police and various organizations that will hopefully help find it.



### BUY - AND ALWAYS USE - A GOOD BIKE LOCK



U-locks (also called D-locks) are basically giant padlocks in two separate parts. A rigid U-shaped shackle attaches to a straight crossbar forming a closed D shape around whatever you are trying to secure.

If you're only going to buy one lock (and it is really recommended you buy two), a U-lock is the way to go. They can be cut, but it is much more difficult than other types of locks and they offer the best balance of security, practicality and price. Chain locks may provide more options when you're looking for places to lock your bike but they're very heavy.

Remember that **CABLE LOCKS OFFER VERY LITTLE SECURITY!!** Most of the bikes stolen on this campus had cable locks and they were easily cut and left at the scene.

Turn this sheet over for some tips on locking your bike!

*As UT Dallas Police Chief Zacharias says, "If you bring a cheap lock, be sure to bring a cheap bike!"*

### **Tip 1: Lock your frame – not just your wheel**

Always lock your **FRAME** to the immovable object. If you only secure your bike through the wheel, a thief will simply remove your wheel and walk off with the rest of the bike. This may sound obvious but it happens all the time.



**RIGHT!!**



**CLEARLY WRONG!!**

### **Tip 2: Make the lock difficult to access**

Try to make the lock as difficult to access as possible. If you can position it so the key hole is facing downwards even better. This will make it more difficult for a thief to attack the lock or tamper with the locking mechanism.

### **Tip 3: Fill the inside of a U-lock**

If you're using a U-lock, try to fill as much of the space within the U with the bike and the thing it's attached to.

### **Tip 4: Lock your bike with two locks**

The most secure way to lock your bike is with two locks. The first lock should go around the back wheel, the frame and the bike rack. The second should go around the front wheel, the frame and preferably the bike rack as well.

This means the frame is secured in two places and both wheels are secured to the frame and the bike rack. Some people even suggest you use two different types of lock because this requires a thief to carry two different types of lock breaking tools.

## **REGISTER YOUR BIKE WITH THE UNIVERSITY AND OTHER WEBSITES**

Register your bike with University Housing!! You need to provide all information requested **INCLUDING** the serial number you found underneath your bike, imprinted into the frame. This is around 10-13 characters long. It is not the model number and is not on a sticker with a bar code.

You may also want to register with Bike Index online – it is free, has a rapidly growing user base and can be used by individuals, police and cycling organizations.

**We cannot stress enough the importance of registering your bike.** Not only does this greatly improve the chances of recovering your bike, it may also help fight bike crime by providing an easy way to check whether a bike is stolen before you buy it.

## **SAVE ALL YOUR RECEIPTS**

Keep *all* receipts that relate to your bike. Whether you are buying a new or a secondhand bike, getting it serviced or fixed, or buying accessories - always ask for a receipt! These receipts are a vital history and proof of your ownership. Keep them together in your file.

**WE WANT YOU TO ENJOY YOUR BIKE FOR A LONG TIME – TAKE STEPS NOW TO PROTECT IT!**

*If you have questions, please contact:  
UTD Police Investigations - 972-883-2869  
UTD Police Crime Prevention - 972-883-4322*