

INFORMATION TO RECORD

- Write down and save your bicycle's serial number, style, brand, size and colour in case you need to report a loss to the police. Attach a photograph of your bicycle. Keep this material in a safe place.
- It is important to be able to identify your bicycle. Engrave an ID number onto the bottom bracket of your bicycle as well as onto other parts. The number you choose should be one that is meaningful to you such as your birthday or driver's license number.

REPORTING

- At school, always report the theft to a supervisor or teacher.
- Always report bicycle thefts or suspicious behaviour around bicycles to the police.



BIKE THEFT

Protecting yourself from bike thieves



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LOCK IT UP

Bicycle theft is big business. Thousands of bikes are stolen each in year in Alberta.

While anti-theft devices are not 100% effective, they do help lower the risk of having your bike stolen.

- Lock up your bike. Unlocked bicycles are an open invitation for thieves. Whenever you are not riding your bike, it should be locked, even when it's in your garage.
- Don't skimp when buying a lock. Most cable locks are easy to cut so purchase the best lock you can find.
- Be sure to lock your bike correctly.

Remember: It takes only seven seconds to disable a u-lock, cable or chain.

INSURANCE

Bicycles are usually covered under your homeowner's or renter's insurance. There is usually a deductible. Some policies also provide liability coverage in the event of a collision that results in injury to another party. There are no deductibles for liability claims.

Once you purchase a bicycle, keep the receipt for it and for any accessories you add. Take photographs of the bike. Store these documents in a safe place. Alert your insurance agent to your new purchase.

If you own an expensive bike, your insurance representative may suggest that you consider purchasing a floater. This will provide more coverage than a homeowner's policy. A floater covers the cost of bike repairs and there may not be any deductions.

Check with your insurance agent about costs.

BICYCLE LOCKING TIPS

1. Fasten the frame and both wheels to a secure bicycle rack or pole.
2. Use two different locking systems.
3. Use a casehardened "U-lock" because cable locks are easily cut.
4. Tighten U-locks so a car jack cannot be inserted between the lock and the "U".
5. If you use a regular padlock, purchase one with a 7/16" shank, the largest size that will fit the bike racks. Ask at your local bike shop about high security designs.
6. Lock your bike in a well-lit area.
7. Lock your bike in an area that can be seen by passing pedestrians or motorists.
8. Don't leave your bike locked in a rack overnight.
9. Lock parts attached with quick-release mechanisms.
10. Replace quick-release mechanisms with regular nut and bolts



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