

If your bike is stolen:

[Contact the police](#) and file a report. Sometimes they will try to discourage you from filing a theft report, but insist on it. See the [Community Alert Notification](#) for additional tips.

Register your stolen bike using [Bike Index](#).

Contact your insurance agent. If you have homeowners or renters insurance, your bike should be covered if the value exceeds the deductible.

Scour Craigslist, eBay, and the Penny Saver for any bike that matches your bike.

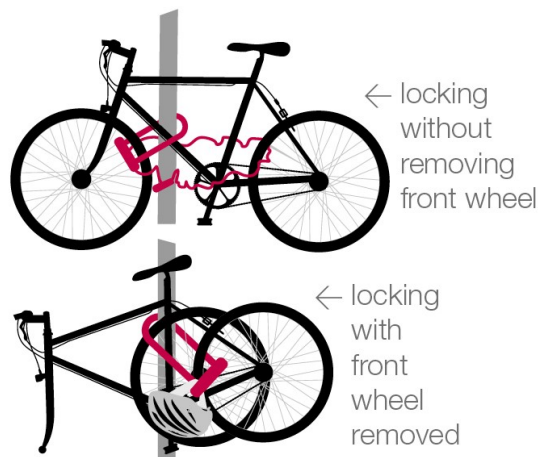
Don't just look in your neighborhood. Thieves will often move a bike out of the area where it is less likely to be recognized or hold it for a few weeks, until the heat is off.

Visit local bike shops in your area and ask them to be on the lookout for your bike. Thieves will often take a stolen bike into a shop for repairs or to try to sell it.

Check out garage sales, make friends with street vendors in your area, and tell everyone you know to keep an eye open for someone riding your bike or parked on the street.

If you find your bike, whether online or in person, call the police and let them deal with it. While there are many stories of people who've recovered their own bikes, there are just as many of people who've gotten in over their heads. No matter what your bike cost, your safety is worth more.

Don't Forget to Lock your Bike



How to Lock Your Bike

1. Find something sturdy to lock the bike to. Make sure thieves can't simply lift the bike over it.
2. Watch out for scaffolding and "sucker poles" — shake them first to ensure they're solidly in the ground. As Kryptonite product manager Don Warren puts it, "The bike is only as secure as what you're locking it to."
3. Wheel theft is on the rise. If you can't lock one of yours, take it with you. But don't park the bike that way long—thieves will start to strip it.
4. Don't use a U-lock around your bike's top tube, says Michael McGettigan, owner of Trophy Bikes in Philadelphia. A thief could use the frame as a lever to pop it open. Use the lock to secure a wheel to your down tube.
5. Locks are about buying time. A burly chain at least 12mm thick will delay thieves the longest.
6. Remove the front wheel, then lock both wheels together with the frame, bike mechanic and lock expert Hal Ruzal suggests.

www.bicycling.com/repair/a20017998/locking-tips/



Want to help us fight bike theft?

LOCK & REGISTER YOUR BIKE



SIMPLE



SECURE



FREE



Brought to you by the

Pacific LAPD

Community Police Advisory Board
(CPAB) and West LA Neighborhood
Bike Ambassadors of la-bike.org/ambassador/west

Free No Parts Bike Repair Stand

at the Mar Vista Farmers Market
every Sunday from 9am to 1:30 pm.

Grand View Blvd and Pacific Ave.

www.marvistafarmersmarket.org

Finding a bicycle serial number

Most bicycles have their serial number engraved beneath their bottom bracket, but sometimes serial numbers are found in other places. Here are some examples of where and what to look for:



The *bottom bracket* (where serial numbers are typically located) is circled.



A serial number on the underside of a *bottom bracket*.

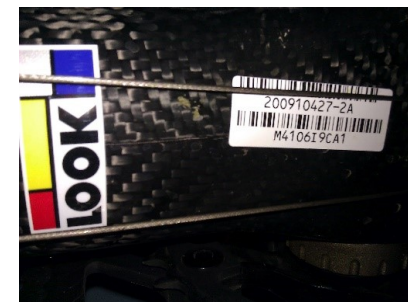


Another serial number beneath the *bottom bracket*, aligned parallel to the frame.

Some Schwinn bicycles have the unique identifying number (their serial number) on the *head tube*. This is on the front of the bike.



A serial number located on a *rear dropout*. Some BMX bikes and a few Schwinn bicycles place the serial on the rear dropout. On older Schwinn's there are numbers stamped on both the drive side and non-drive side rear dropouts; the one on the non-drive side dropout is the serial number.



Some bikes have *multiple serial numbers*. ²When adding a bike to the Index, it's best to enter all the groups of numbers and letters separated by spaces.

Hopefully you can find the serial number on the bicycle you're looking at - email contact@bikeindex.org if you're having trouble.