

How to Prevent Bike Theft With Three Easy Steps



#1 Report Theft

- It is difficult to be entirely sure that a suspect has stolen your bike because **many bikes look the same** and many people have the same bike.
- If you believe that your bike has been stolen or impounded, you should contact the Messiah University Department of Safety at [\(717\)-691-6005](tel:717-691-6005).
- If you happen to witness a bike theft, either by force or stealth, **contact the Department of Safety immediately** and inform the dispatcher where you are and what is happening. Try to remember as much as you can about the suspect for the report.
- Do not directly confront someone who you think has stolen your bike as **a secondary incident may occur**.

Did you know?

Bike theft is the number one crime that occurs on many college campuses?

FBI



While many types of property theft have declined in recent years, bicycle theft is on the rise according to FBI statistics. The increasing popularity of bicycling as a sport and a means of transportation have made bicycles an easy target for thieves. It is estimated that over 1.5 million bicycles are stolen every year. No where is bicycle theft a bigger problem than on college campuses; over half of the property crime in the University of California involves the theft of bicycles.

Bike theft up 10%

In the US alone, a bicycle is stolen every minute...

#2 Make it Difficult to Steal



- Use university-approved bike racks.
- Always **carry a secure lock** whenever you plan to leave your bicycle unattended.
- Make sure you know how to **properly lock** your bicycle.

Which Method is Proper?



In most cases, stolen bicycles were either **unlocked, improperly locked, or locked with inadequate locking devices**. You should always carry a secure lock whenever you plan to leave your bicycle unattended.

Locking Securely

Cable secured through U-Lock and wheels

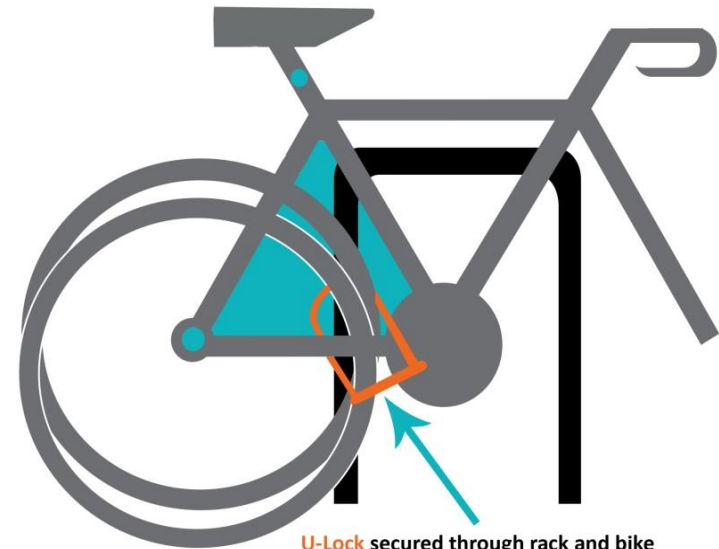
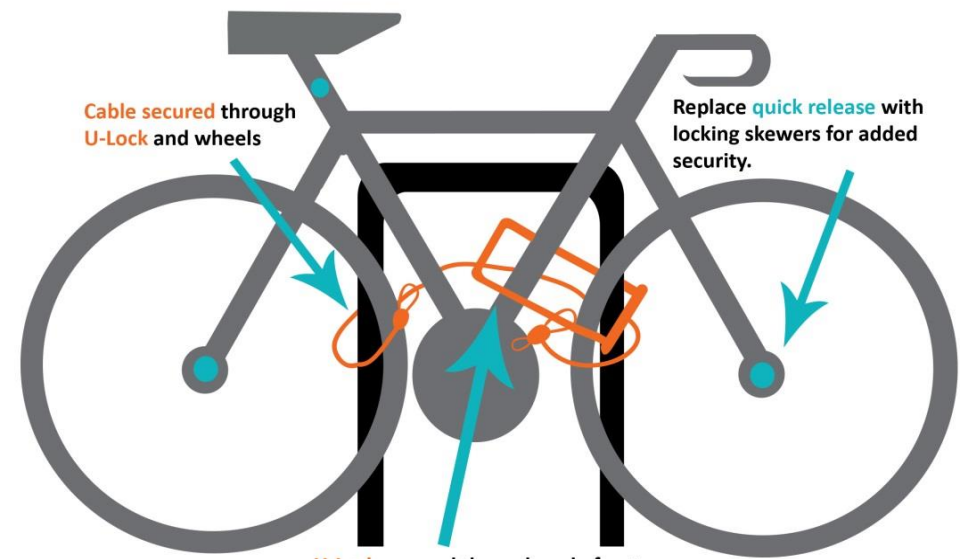
Replace quick release with locking skewers for added security.

U-Lock secured through rack, front wheel, and bike frame.

OR

Removing the Front Wheel

U-Lock secured through rack and bike frame through rear triangle and wheels



Use Bike Racks!



Thieves tend to look for the most **quick and easy steal**. To avoid bike theft one of the first things you can do is lock your bike at a university-approved bike rack. There are numerous bike racks strategically located around campus that are available to the campus community for safe bike storage during all hours of the day. These bike racks are typically in public locations where theft is obvious and rarely occurs.

Unsafe Places to Store Bikes



#3 Register Your Bike (It's FREE)



- The Department of Safety encourages you to register your bike at the Greenbriar Station (located at the main entrance to campus).
- Registering discourages theft and aids in identification should your bike get stolen.
- Store bike registration along with purchase receipts, manufacturer's information, and a photograph of the bicycle.