



Office of the Sheriff

**ANOKA COUNTY
SHERIFF JAMES STUART**

Tips on Preventing Bicycle Thefts

Every year hundreds of bikes are stolen in our jurisdiction. Most of them are recovered, yet because of a lack of proper identification, only a small percentage are ever returned to their owners. Here are some things you can do to help prevent bike theft and recover your bike if it is stolen.

- Always lock a bike that's left unattended, even for just a minute. Don't forget to secure bikes on a car carrier rack.
- Be sure to lock the bike to something stationary, preferably where it can be seen by you and others.
- A quality U-lock is the best locking device you can buy. Avoid locks, chains or cables that can be easily cut, broken or picked.
- Make sure both wheels are locked, either by removing one and U-locking it with the other and the frame or by using an auxiliary lock on one. You can also purchase devices that replace the cam and the lever on quick-release wheels and seats with a keyed system.
- Remove any components and accessories, including tire pump, seat, or bags that can easily be taken.
- If you keep your bike in a garage, make sure that the garage is properly secured.
- Write down the following information and keep it at home in the event that your bike is stolen: Bicycle brand name, serial number, wheel size, frame type, number of speeds and purchase date. It would also help to have a copy of the receipt. You will need all of this information if your bike is stolen. It will help us identify you as the owner, and your bike from the others we have recovered.

