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Locking Your Bike

	Protecting your steed from thieves.	Ethan Gelber	10/31/00
	never (knock on wood)	Sheila	10/31/00
	Be paranoid:	Steve	11/01/00

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Date: October 31, 2000 08:52 AM

Author: Ethan Gelber (ethang@gorp.com)

Subject: Protecting your steed from thieves.

I am lucky: I have never ever had a bicycle stolen on my home turf (New York City). It could be that I really am incredibly fortunate, but I prefer to think that the care I have taken in properly securing my bike to a solid base has played a role in deterring likely criminals from taking tools to my locks that would leave me sans steed. If you're shopping for a good lock, check out David Schloss's [article](#) here on GORP.

There are a number of recommendations that cycling lobby groups have made about how to lock up a bike. Some of them are obvious, like "Always lock your bike" (even if you are just stepping away from it for a few seconds), "Use more than one lock," and "Look for well trafficked areas but beware of areas where a crowd can be a screen."

However, there are other considerations that have always taken me by surprise and that I have not always followed. Things like: Don't use parking meters since the meter heads can be removed. And: Don't lock to trees since they can be cut down. These strike me as being a little paranoid. Then again, as I said, I have been lucky enough never to have had my bike stolen at home. And maybe the day a would-be lumberjack hijacks the life of a sapling to get at my ride, I won't deride such warnings. Of course, I still do always look for official bike racks and parking signs as the best place for a security. That is, if I can't take my bike inside with me.

Have you ever had your bike stolen? What do you do now to protect against such a violation?

(http://gorpforums.gorp.com/forums/Index.cfm?CFApp=52&Message_ID=44113)

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Date: October 31, 2000 09:00 AM

Author: Sheila (sresari@hotmail.com)

Subject: never (knock on wood)

I've had one close call. (Some jerk put a lock around my locked bike -- hoping, I suppose, that I would have to leave it for him or her to tackle at leisure. Luckily it was a cheapo and I smashed it open.)

Now that I ride in New York City, I don't leave home without two locks -- a big kryptonite chain for my frame and front wheel, and a u-lock for the rear.

All the attachments that can be removed (pump, seat, lights, water bottle, helmet) come with me.

So far, so good...

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Date: November 01, 2000 04:44 AM

Author: Steve (steve@steve3.screaming.net)

Subject: Be paranoid:

Advice about not locking a bike to trees and parking meters isn't paranoid.

One of the people I work with bought a expensive mountain bike when they first became popular. He locked his bike to a set of railings and came back to find that one of the vertical sections of the railing had been bent so that it popped out at the top and the bike had been lifted over with the lock still attached. The railings were only intended to stop people crossing into the road at a dangerous place and were made of very thin metal.

A few years back I locked my bike to a gate whilst I visited a friend. It was a hot summer day in London, my friends windows were wide open and we were only a few yards from the bike.

I was very surprised to find my saddle and seat stem gone when I came to leave.

I just bought a new bike and immediately had the quick release changed for something a bit slower. I lock it in a similar way to Sheila in the previous posting, I have it insured and just hope for the best.

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