

City of Portland

Bicycle Theft Prevention

Each year nearly 3,000 bicycles are reported stolen to the police, which discourages people from riding their bicycles. Unfortunately, bicycles are stolen in Portland every day. These thefts are often fueled by drug use and addiction—the bicycles are sold to drug dealers in exchange for drugs. Promoting the use of bicycles for transportation and recreation is an important policy goal for the City of Portland. The resources in this handout can help you keep your bike safe and secure.

Quick tips for theft prevention/recovery

While the Police Bureau takes multiple daily reports on stolen bicycles, without any means of identification (such as serial number), it can be difficult to have probable cause to seize a stolen bicycle as well as return recovered bicycles to their rightful owners. Prevention of theft should always be the first steps. Some tips to prevent bike theft include:

- Always use a U-lock. Never use only a cable lock.
- Lock your wheel and frame together.
- Use a bicycle rack (sign poles are not as secure).
- When possible, do not park your bike on the sidewalk or street overnight.
- Lock your bike in a well-lit and well-traveled area.
- Take lights and other easily removed items with you.
- Write down your serial number. It's also very helpful to have a picture of your bicycle and, if possible, the original sales receipt.
- Register your bicycle online in the event it is stolen it can be recovered.

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The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 503-823-4000, Relay: 711.

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Chuyển Ngữ hoặc Phiên Dịch
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Письмовий або усний переклад
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الترجمة التحريرية أو الشفهية
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翻译或传译
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翻訳または通訳
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ການແປພາສາ ຫຼື ການອະທິບາຍ
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Письменный или устный перевод
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Information in this document is provided by:

Portland Bureau of Transportation: portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/515903

Portland Police Bureau, Bike Theft Task Force: portlandoregon.gov/police/66825

How to document your bike

There are two distinct aspects to protecting your bike: documentation, and proper locking technique, and both are essential to proper bicycle security. You can start your file by establishing a file for each bike you own, recording your serial number and placing it in the file. Other documentation in the file should include a receipt for the bike. Even if you are buying a used bike, ask for a receipt. If you don't have a receipt for a bike you already own, repair receipts may serve as evidence of ownership. Be sure to keep all receipts for the bike in the file, along with photographs of the bike, including any distinguishing characteristics, and store those in the file as well. If you change the appearance of the bike, document it with additional photographs. If possible make a digital copy of your file on your hard drive, and keep the bike's paper file with your other important documents.

If you have home owner's or renter's insurance, you should also make sure that your bike is included on your policy; be sure to specify that the bike is covered for its full replacement value.

Once you have created a file for your bike, you will also want to register your bike, preferably with a nationwide registration service. There are many bicycle registry services that allow you to register your bike and its serial number in case it is ever stolen. Several of these registries are working with the Portland Police Bureau to make recovering a stolen bike and stopping future thefts easier.

Some private online bicycle registry options that work with the City of Portland Police Bureau include:

Project529

<https://project529.com/garage>

Bike Index

<https://bikeindex.org/>

Download the bike theft prevention PDF resource card (photos on the left) to keep track of your bike recovery information at:

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/520586>

BICYCLE THEFT PREVENTION

- Use a high quality U-lock. Lock the frame & one wheel.
- Always lock your bike to a secure, fixed object.
- Try to lock your bike in a well-lit & well-traveled area.
- If you have any parts or components that can easily be removed (i.e., lights, bags, quick-release seat post, etc.) take them with you.



For more information on preventing bike theft & reclaiming a stolen bike, visit our website: **EndBikeTheft.org**



U-LOCK FRONT WHEEL & BIKE FRAME TO RACK

THESE DETAILS HELP PROVE THE BIKE IS YOURS

Fill out this form & save it for your records.

- You will need your bike serial number to get your bike back from the police.
- Take photos of your bike & any unique components.
- To report a bike theft call 503.823.3333 (Portland Police).
- For more information visit us at **EndBikeTheft.org**



BICYCLE RECOVERY INFORMATION

OWNER NAME _____

MAKE _____ MODEL _____ YEAR _____

STYLE (e.g., hybrid, road) _____ COLOR _____

VALUE (\$) _____ SERIAL # _____

For ADA Title II or Civil Rights Title VI accommodations, translation/interpretation services, complaints, or for additional information, call 503-823-5266, TTY: 503-823-6868, or use Oregon Relay Service: 711.



CITY OF PORTLAND
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What to do if your bicycle is stolen?

If your bike is stolen, you will need to take some steps if you hope to recover your bike. The below checklist is a helpful guide to assist with the reporting and recovery process of the stolen bike.

- Notify law enforcement by filing a stolen bike report online at portlandoregon.gov/police/cor/ or calling Non-Emergency at 503.823.3333. This is where your file documenting ownership of your bike will first be utilized—you will want to provide law enforcement with the bike's serial number and any photos of the bike.
- Conduct your own search for the bike. Check online sites, such as Craigslist and eBay. Be aware that thieves will sometimes steal a bike in one city and advertise it for sale in another city. Some thieves will attempt to evade detection by the owner by providing a vague description of the bike in the ad. If your bicycle is found online, contact your local precinct or call Non-Emergency at 503.823.3333 and update the report.
- Check BikePortland.org stolen bike listings.
- Bring a photo of the bike and make rounds to the pawn shops and second-hand stores in your area. If a thief tries to sell your stolen bike to them, they may recognize the bike. If they have already bought the bike, the documentation you have filed, along with the stolen bike report, will be proof that the bike is yours, and you will be entitled to recover the bike through procedures established by state law. Check with your local law enforcement agency for those procedures. You are not required to pay a pawn shop for return of your stolen bike.
- Stop by and share photos of your bicycle to the bike shops in your area. Thieves will sometimes attempt to sell stolen bikes to bike shops, especially if the shop sells used bikes. If you notify the shops, and can provide a photo, the shops may notify law enforcement if they see a bike matching your stolen bike.
- Check the police impound yard from time to time. You can reach the Portland Police Bureau's Property Evidence Division at 503-823-2179. If your stolen bike is recovered, the police will take it there. Also, check the impound yard of your local transit agency.
- If you find your bike, notify law enforcement for assistance in recovering your bike. If law enforcement recovers your bike, they should notify you, based upon the stolen bike report you filed. You will need your stolen bike report and proof that the bike belongs to you before law enforcement will release it to you. Thus, the importance of documenting your ownership of the bike and keeping it in a file.

For information about insuring your bike against loss from theft, and filing a claim if your bike is stolen, see: bicycledlaw.com/legal-issues-for-cyclists/about-insurance/

Information provided by:

City of Portland Bike Theft Task Force

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/66825>

City of Portland Bureau of Transportation

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/515903>

Reporting Toolkit

Is it an immediate or life-threatening emergency?

YES

Dial 911 - Be prepared to provide information (i.e. location, suspect details, involved persons). Do not hang up until instructed to do so.

NO

Are you calling to report a crime or suspicious activity?

YES

Does the incident involve any of the following:

- Known suspect(s)
- Stolen vehicles
- Domestic violence
- Vehicular accidents
- Firearms
- Hit and runs
- RX Medication
- Require police presence

NO

NO

YES

Report online:
portlandoregon.gov/police/cor/

Call Portland Non-Emergency
at (503) 823-3333.

Are you reporting livability issues and violations (i.e. campsites, potholes, illegal/abandoned vehicles)?

YES

NO

Go to pdxreporter.org and file a report (you will need a portlandoregon.gov account to login).

Do you need help and/or training for your business, neighborhood or residence, but don't know where to start?

YES

To get more training and connect with your Crime Prevention Team go online to:
portlandoregon.gov/civic/cp

Your Crime Prevention Team's mission is to organize and support community partnerships to prevent crime and the fear of crime. You can also find online resources and training tools on the Office of Community & Civic Life, Crime Prevention Program website portlandoregon.gov/civic/cpadvice.



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