

Bicycle Parking in San Francisco



On-Street Bicycle Parking at the Main Library.

THEFT PREVENTION

Bicycle theft is common in San Francisco. You must lock your bicycle whenever and wherever you leave it, even if it is only for a few seconds. Nothing will stop a determined thief, but locking your bicycle correctly with the right equipment, will discourage the thief looking for easy targets.

USE THE RIGHT HARDWARE: If possible, combine two of these locking mechanisms when parking your bicycle:

U-LOCKS: Purchase a lock made with strong components (like steel alloy). These come in a very small size, useful for locking



Both wheels and the bicycle frame should be locked to the rack.

just a frame or wheel to a rack or pole, in combination with a cable, or a larger size, which will allow cyclists to lock a wheel and frame to a rack or will fit around larger diameter objects.

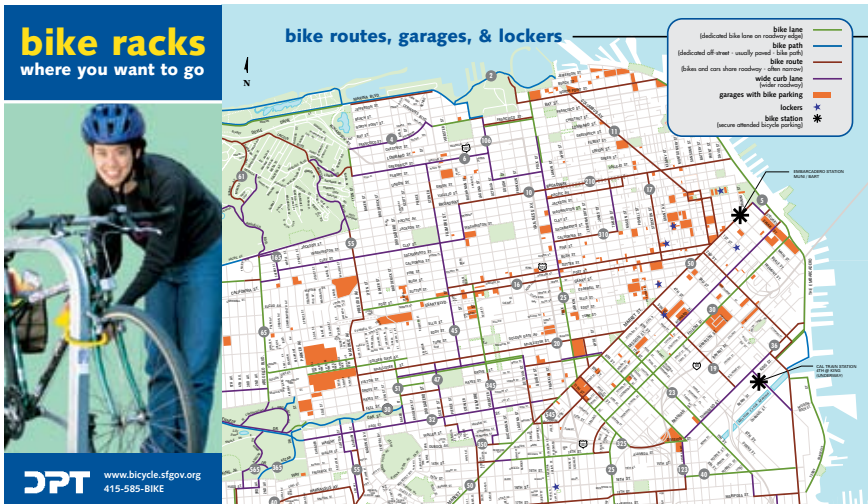
CHAINS: A chain such as the “New York Lock” are very strong and secure; however, they are very heavy, so you will have to weigh relative security vs. how much weight you want to carry. Other, smaller chains may be helpful in augmenting a u-lock, but can be cut easily, so ask questions of the retailer where you are buying the chain. You will also need some kind of lock to secure the chain around your bike.

CABLES: This can be a good alternative to a chain, since they can be just as strong or stronger and are lighter and more easily carried. Use a cable at least 3/8” thick. Again, you will also need a lock.

HOW TO LOCK YOUR BIKE

LOCK THE ENTIRE BIKE: Make sure you lock both the wheels and frame. This might





This brochure and map provide complete bike parking information for San Francisco. To request a bicycle locker, a bicycle rack, or this brochure, call 585-BIKE.

mean you'll need to remove your front wheel (if it has a quick-release hub) and lock it.

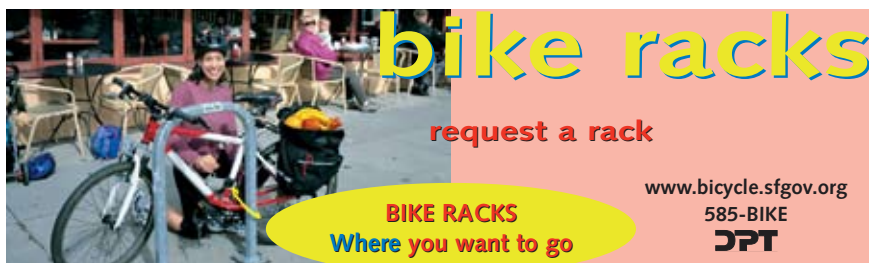
If you lock just your wheel, a thief could steal the rest of your bike – or vice-versa. Leave as little slack in your chain or cable as possible, and make sure that there is little or no space in the middle of the lock that would allow a thief to pry the lock open.

WHERE TO LOCK YOUR BIKE

If you are planning to leave your bike all day at your place of work, you may want to consider finding bicycle parking inside a building or renting a bicycle locker. Habitual bike parking at a certain place and time alerts a thief to a possible theft opportunity.

VISIBILITY: where possible, lock bicycles within sight of where you're going. Don't be the only bicycle parked in an area – it is safer to park where there is activity.

BICYCLE RACKS: The MTA Bicycle Program has installed over 1,500 bicycle racks in all parts of San Francisco. Many are concentrated on bicycle corridors, so there is a good chance there will be a rack where you want to go. Ideally, racks are meant to provide short-term parking, so they are best used for recreation or shopping trips. If you find there is no rack where you intend to park, please contact the MTA Bicycle Program hotline at (415) 585-BIKE or e-mail www.bicycle.sfgov.org to request a rack.



bike racks

request a rack

www.bicycle.sfgov.org

585-BIKE

DPT

BIKE RACKS
Where you want to go

ON-STREET BICYCLE PARKING: The MTA Bicycle Program has also recently taken the precedent-setting step of removing automobile parking and installing bicycle parking in its place in front of the Grove Street entrance of the Main Library. This project has been very successful in eliminating sidewalk encroachments and expanding bicycle parking spaces at the same time.

SECURE BICYCLE PARKING - If you plan to park your bike at your workplace or residence, you may want more secure parking - that is, parking your bike in a garage which has bicycle racks and an attendant, or renting a bicycle locker from the MTA Bicycle Program. Garage locations with bicycle racks can be found on our website, www.bicycle.sfgov.org, or on the "San Francisco Bike Map", available for purchase at many bike shops, book stores and Rainbow Grocery at 13th and Folsom Streets.

BIKESTATIONS are a relatively new alternative for secure bicycle parking. They are located at transit hubs in San Francisco and provide free, attended parking and

long hours. There are bikestations at the Embarcadero Bart Station and at the Caltrain Station at 4th and King Streets. There are also bicycle racks inside the paid entrance of the 16th Street and Civic Center Bart Stations. Although 16th Street and Civic Center parking are not directly attended, they are more secure than parking your bicycle on the streets.

WHERE THERE IS NO BIKE RACK: PARKING METERS – If you lock your bicycle to a parking meter, make sure to use a u-lock, since thieves can just slip a bike locked with a chain or cable over the top of the meter. Be aware that bikes locked to meters often twist and fall, creating an obstacle for pedestrians.

SIGN POLES – These are not the best place to lock your bike, since often a sign at the top of the pole is not enough to stop a thief from lifting your bike over the top, as with a parking meter. Also, check whether the pole has a secure footing before you lock to it – it may be easily pulled out of the ground.

TREES – Do not lock a bicycle to a tree – it damages the tree trunk and roots.

SAN FRANCISCO CITY ORDINANCES REQUIRING BICYCLE PARKING

Information regarding which garages and buildings are required to install bicycle parking can be found on our website, www.bicycle.sfgov.org.

A summary of the San Francisco bicycle parking ordinances is as follows:

155.1 – requires bicycle parking in City-owned and leased buildings

155.2 – requires bicycle parking in certain privately-owned and all City-owned automobile garages

155.3 – requires shower and locker facilities in certain new or renovated buildings

155.4 – requires bicycle parking in certain new or renovated buildings

155.5 – requires bicycle parking for residential uses

If you find a garage or building out of compliance, the Planning Department should be notified.

BICYCLE REGISTRATION AND RECOVERY

REGISTERING YOUR BIKE – When you obtain a new bike, write down the serial number, take a photo, and put them in a safe place. You might also register your bike at the National Bike Registry, a good on-line resource at www.nationalbikeregistry.com.

It is important to have the serial number so that you can prove the bike that was stolen and recovered is yours. In addition, it helps the police identify and locate the proper owner.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR BIKE IS STOLEN

Report the theft to the police. Call 415/553-0123 - then request a printed version of the report at 415/553-1289. Provide clearly detailed descriptive information and the bicycle's serial number. The San Francisco Police Department is linked to the national database of stolen property, so you can call the SFPD at any time to ask if a bike with your serial number has been returned anywhere in the U.S.