

## How to Choose a Bike Lock

The most important factor in securing a bicycle, however, is selecting an appropriate lock. The old adage “you get what you pay for” is most definitely applicable to bicycle locks. Inexpensive locks are easy to find at discount retailers, but many of these take little effort or experience to break through. Bicyclists should instead purchase their locks from dedicated bicycle shops that carry a variety of locks appropriate for use in Philadelphia. What follows is a quick rundown of lock types, their pros and cons, and a few recommended brands for bicyclists just getting started:

For security purposes, opt for stems, wheels, and bicycle seats without quick release levers. Quick releases make adjusting your bike easier, but they also make it easier for thieves to steal its components. Have your local bike shop fit the bike to you and opt out of the releases if you know you won't need to make frequent adjustments.

## Cable Locks



Cable locks are made up of many individual metal wires – twisted together to form a cable. The individual wires make cutting through the cable difficult, but the locks are easily defeated through other means. Their length makes it easy for cyclists to secure their bikes to large objects, such as street lights. They are best used in tandem with a second lock.

**Recommended Lock(s):**  
Kryptonite HardWire 1518: \$\$

## Chain Locks



Like cable locks, chain locks offer the benefit of length, allowing cyclists to secure multiple bikes or to lock on to large objects. Inexpensive chain locks, however, can be easily overcome with bolt cutters, and high-quality locks are heavy and difficult to transport.

**Recommended Lock(s):**  
Kryptonite New York Legend 1590: \$\$\$\$

## U-Locks



U-locks offer both high security and small packaging, but they can only attach to a limited variety of objects. U-locks are often made out of hardened steel, making cutting through difficult. Inexpensive locks, however, often feature simple locking mechanisms that are easily picked, while high-quality locks can get both heavy and expensive.

**Recommended Lock(s):**  
Kryptonite New York Fahgettaboudit: \$\$\$  
Abus Ketaro 505: \$\$\$  
Trek (Kryptonite) LS: \$\$

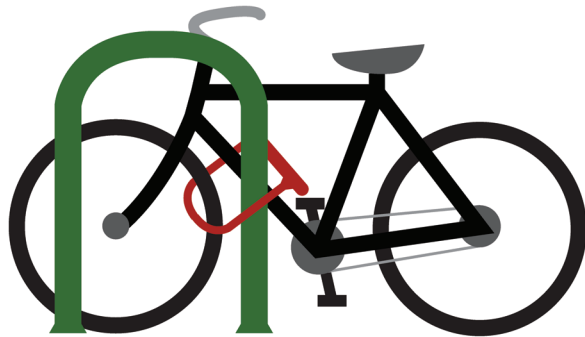
## Mini U-Locks



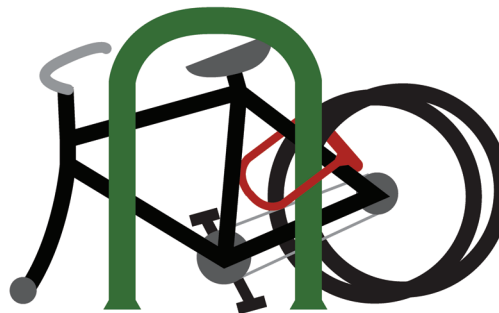
Mini u-locks are smaller versions of regular u-locks. They are often a bit more difficult to break than comparable regular-sized u-locks; however, they are often only big enough to secure one part of the bike, leaving wheels with quick releases vulnerable. Mini u-locks are best used in combination with cable locks when securing a bike for a long period of time.

**Recommended Lock(s):**  
Kryptonite New York Fahgettaboutit Mini: \$\$\$  
Kryptonite Evolution Mini w/Cable: \$\$

Many employers or office buildings have indoor areas where bikes can be secured. It is still important to lock your bike up in these areas to prevent someone from accidentally or purposefully walking off with your bicycle.



1



2

## Importance of Bike Locks

Philadelphia has the dubious distinction of being one of the worst cities in the US for bicycle theft. Commuters should always secure their bikes to designated bike racks, although any immobile and strong piece of street infrastructure, including lamp posts, metal railings, (tall) street signs, and telephone poles will do. First, look for a dedicated bike rack to secure your bike. Lock it to a different type of affixed object only if bike racks are not available. Securing your bike keeps it safe and ensures that you have a ride home. Commuters should avoid parking meters, short street signs, bike racks with missing bolts, and mobile street furniture. When available, commuters should place their bikes behind secured gates or in highly visible, high traffic locations (which increases the chance that someone will notice any unusual behavior. Selecting a location in front of security cameras makes tracking down bicycle thieves easier.

## Properly Locking your Bike

Even the most expensive and durable bicycle lock is worthless unless it is properly used. Bicyclists should be sure to secure the frame and at least one wheel when leaving their bicycle in a public area (1). Securing the front wheel is better when only one is an option, as the rear wheel is more difficult to remove. People leaving their bicycle in a public place for a long duration of time should make sure that they secure both their wheels and frame with the bicycle lock (2).

See next page for image.

## Register your Bike!

Bicycle commuters should register their bicycle with the National Bike Registry in order to increase the chances of recovering their property in the event it does get stolen. To register your bike, go to:

- [www.nationalbikeregistry.com/](http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com/)

For more information on bicycle locks and how to register your bicycle, please take a look at:

- [www.examiner.com/article/bicycle-theft-beating-the-odds](http://www.examiner.com/article/bicycle-theft-beating-the-odds)
- [www.wired.com/reviews/2011/01/pr\\_reviews\\_biketools\\_lock/](http://www.wired.com/reviews/2011/01/pr_reviews_biketools_lock/)
- [www.commutebike.com/2011/01/03/the-very-best-bike-locks/](http://www.commutebike.com/2011/01/03/the-very-best-bike-locks/)
- [www.consumersearch.com/bicycle-locks/best-bike-locks](http://www.consumersearch.com/bicycle-locks/best-bike-locks)

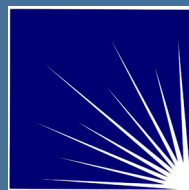
For more information, please visit  
Commuter Connections's website at:  
[commuterconnectionPA.cleanair.org](http://commuterconnectionPA.cleanair.org)



Commuter Connection Program



#@CommuterConnec1



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## Commuter Connection

Tips & Tricks:

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