



## At home





Remember to apply the same rules at home as you do when out and about.

Thieves will take an opportunity if they see one, no matter where it is.

- Store your bike in a garage or shed that is kept securely locked.
- No garage/shed? Take your bike inside or secure it in exactly the same way as you would away from home; remove valuable parts and lock the entire bike to a immovable object.
- Consider installing security lighting around your property to help deter thieves, and restrict access by keeping boundaries secure and gates locked.
- Encourage neighbours to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the police.

## Contact us

### Report a crime:

-  Call **101** to report a non-urgent crime or to contact your local officer
-  Call **999** if a crime is in progress or life is in danger
-  If you are deaf or speech-impaired, text '**police**' and your message to **60066**
-  Visit your nearest police front counter to report non-urgent crime

### News, information and advice:

-  Speak to an officer – at a police surgery, at a front counter or by calling **101**
-  Visit our website – **[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)**
-  Follow **@kent\_police** or your district account on Twitter
-  Find us on **Facebook**
-  Chat to officers online – **[www.kent.police.uk/onlinemeeting](http://www.kent.police.uk/onlinemeeting)**
-  Sign up for your fortnightly district e newsletters – **[www.kent.police.uk/enews](http://www.kent.police.uk/enews)**

For details of all the ways to contact us, visit **[www.kent.police.uk/contactus](http://www.kent.police.uk/contactus)**

For other information guides in this series, visit **[www.kent.police.uk/yourguide](http://www.kent.police.uk/yourguide)**



# Kent Police



Your guide to crime prevention



# Kent Police



Bicycle crime affects thousands of people in the UK each year, causing great expense and inconvenience.

This leaflet takes you through a range of simple steps you can take to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of this type of crime.

## Reduce the risk of theft

- Security-mark your bike, making sure the mark is clearly visible and cannot be easily removed. Consider forensically marking removable parts.



Forensic solutions are invisible to the naked eye but contain a unique forensic code (like a fingerprint) that remains on the marked item, clothes or skin, making it easier to trace stolen goods or offenders back to specific crimes or locations.

- Record serial numbers and keep them somewhere safe.
- Photograph your bike – and remember to take new pictures if you add new colours or change accessories.
- Register your bike on a property database such as **www.immobilise.com** or **www.bikeregister.com** so police can return it to you if it is found.
- Get covered. Consider adding a standard bicycle to your home insurance or purchase separate insurance for higher specification bikes.
- Always buy bikes and accessories from legitimate suppliers. If you are approached about buying a bike and the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

## Out and about

- Make sure you secure your bicycle, even if you only leave it for a few moments. Secure it by locking it to an immovable object and take any valuables with you.
- Invest in a good lock. Using two made from different materials often deters thieves, as they will need to use different methods to cut through them.



- Using your locks, secure both wheels (if removable) and the frame to an immovable object, making sure the lock is off the floor so it cannot be smashed, and facing downwards to make it harder to pick.
- Make sure the immovable object does its job, for example a proper bike rack, ground anchor or street furniture. Remember that thieves can lift bikes off signposts and remove drainpipes easily.
- Choose carefully where you store your bike, making sure it is well-lit and in view of passers-by.
- Once you've secured your bike, remove any valuable accessories that could be stolen without the need for tools.