

## PROTECT YOUR BIKE

Bicycle theft has become a tremendous problem on college campuses and the Cerritos College campus is no exception, bicycles and bicycle parts including seats and "quick release wheels" are in big demand and thieves are well equipped as well.

### 1. BICYCLE REGISTRATION

A free bicycle registration is available at the Cerritos College Police Department. Registering your bike assists in the recovery of a bicycle if it is lost or stolen. It will also provide proof of ownership when you reclaim it.

2. Keep records including serial number, description of bicycle, photograph of bicycle and bill of sale. If your bicycle is stolen this information will be needed for the police report.

### REPORTING A BIKE THEFT

If your bicycle is stolen on campus you should report the crime immediately to the Cerritos College Police Department. Providing the police with descriptive information such as the serial number increases the chance of recovery.

To report the theft of a bicycle contact CCPD at (562) 924-3618



## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO!

1. If you witness a bike theft, either by force or stealth, dial 911 immediately and provide the dispatcher with your location and with what is happening. Try to provide the dispatcher with a physical description of the suspect.
2. If you suspect that someone has stolen your bike, do not directly confront them because an incident may occur. Contact the Cerritos College Police Department and provide them with as much information as possible. You can never be entirely sure that a suspect has stolen your bike. Many students ride similar color, models and style of bikes on campus and in the community.

### California Bicycle Laws

**"All laws are enforced on campus."**

CVC 22450(a) Bicyclist must stop completely at stop sign.

CVC 21200.5 Illegal to ride bicycle while under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

CVC 21201(D) At night time bicycle must be equipped with white light to the front and red reflector to the rear.

CVC 21203 No person riding a bicycle, scooter, or roller skates shall attach the same of himself to any street car or vehicle on roadway.

CVC 21204(a) Must sit on bicycle seat when riding and not permit any riding as passenger.

CVC 21212(a) Anyone under the age of 18 must wear a bicycle helmet to operate a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, roller blades, or roller skates.

## PREVENTING



## BICYCLE THEFT

CERRITOS COLLEGE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
(562) 924-3618



CERRITOS COLLEGE

## CHOOSING LOCK DEVICES

1. Resistance to cutting or forcing is directly proportional to the thickness of the padlock, shackle, cable, or chain. Buy the best that you can afford.
2. A good padlock should have at least a 9/32 inch hardened alloy steel shackle.
3. If the steel is hardened, the word "hardened" will be stamped on the shackle. If more security is desired, a padlock with a larger shackle can be purchased.
4. Insure the locking mechanism in the padlock is of "pin-tumbler" construction.
5. A chain using 3/8 inch or greater alloy steel is the best choice. Chains should be constructed of "hardened alloy steel" and be long enough to thread thru both wheels, the frame of the bicycle and around a fixed object. A non-welded or twist link chain can be easily defeated by opening one link with a spreading tool. Purchase a chain that is not hardened all the way through. With a non-hardened inner core, breaking the chain with a hammer or cutting tool is difficult.
6. If you select a cable, inspect it closely. Some manufacturers try to cut costs by giving you less steel and hiding the fact with a thicker vinyl coating. The coating "magnifies" the inner core, making it appear larger than it really is. Also check the cable to insure that the loop clamps are not cramped around the vinyl coating. The clamps should be clipped to bare cables. If not, the clamp could be heated causing the vinyl to melt. The clamp could then become loose, and the loop could be opened. Cable of 7/16 inch diameter or greater provide excellent protection. Cables smaller than this could be defeated easily with ordinary wire cutters.
7. U-shaped locks are made with 1/2" thru hardened alloy steel to prevent cutting, sawing or smashing.

## HOW TO LOCK YOUR BIKE

For greatest protection, remember that the following steps are as important as the locking device you buy.

1. Most thefts are crimes of opportunity; reduce the opportunity and you reduce crime. Remember, a thief does not like crowds, so park your bicycle where there is a high degree of pedestrian traffic. If someone does try to rip you off, chances are that he/she will be seen by a passer-by.
2. If you must ride at night, park your bike in a well-lit, well-traveled area, even if it means having to walk further.
3. Always attach your bike to an immovable bike rack to prevent thieves from carrying it off. Make sure that the bike cannot be taken merely by lifting the chain or cable over the fixed rack. The college has provided convenient bicycle racks throughout campus.
4. Position the lock as high off the ground as you can so it is difficult to gain leverage by bracing one leg of a bolt cutter against the ground. This will also reduce the likelihood of anyone trying to smash or pry open the lock. If possible, keep the lock high on the bike by closing the shackle around some portion of the bike, such as the handlebar or seat support.
5. Always try to anchor both wheels as well as the frame with your chain or cable. Thieves will willingly steal part of your bike as they will the whole thing.
6. If you do not lock your bike, do not leave it. Turning your back on an unlocked bike is an open invitation to loss. It takes only seconds to steal a bike.

## BIKE THEFT STATISTICS

Bike Thefts Reported On Campus

**2012 24**  
**2013 22**  
**2014 40 (January to October)**

## BIKE THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

1. Record your bike's serial number. Take a photo of you and your unlocked bike. Keep the receipt. This will help you to identify your bike.
2. Always lock your bike, even if you're just leaving it for a moment.
3. Always lock through the frame and a wheel. Add a cable, cable lock, or second U-lock to lock the second wheel.
4. Buy the most expensive lock you can afford. U-locks are strong and better ones come with theft warranties. Only buy a U-lock with a flat or disc key. Cylindrical key locks are more easily picked.
5. Beware of locking to "sucker poles" that are loosely bolted down and can easily be removed. Avoid locking to private property.
6. Learn about the lock manufacturer's warranty and product replacement policy.

## INSURANCE

**The best locking devices are not an absolute guarantee against the determined, tool equipped thief. While care in locking gives a high degree of protection, insurance is still a sound investment when you own a highly prized bicycle.**