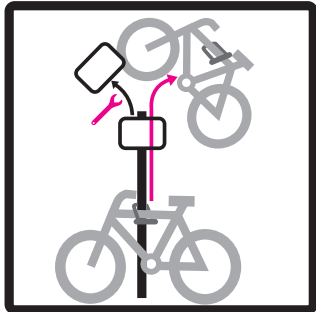


# Common bike theft techniques - and how to avoid them

## Lifting



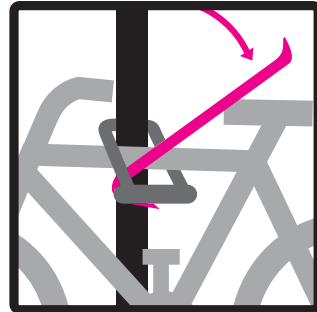
### How they do it

Thieves will lift the bike (and lock) over the top of the post it is locked to. If it is a signpost then the thieves may remove the sign to lift the bicycle clear. Sometimes the post itself is not anchored securely and can be lifted clear of the bike and the lock.

### How to avoid it

Always lock your bicycle to a 'closed structure' that is well secured to the ground. If you must lock to an 'unclosed structure' then make sure it is more than 5 metres high and well secured to the ground (thieves will stand on shoulders to pass your bike clear if the structure is low enough).

## Levering



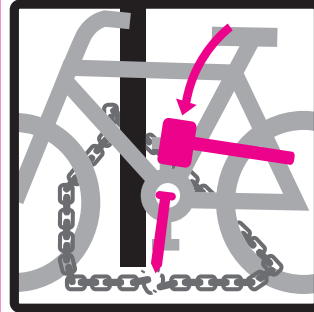
### How they do it

If it is possible, thieves will insert tools, such as jacks or bars, into the gap between the bike, lock and stand to lever the lock apart. Thieves will even use the bike frame itself as a lever by rotating it against the stand or other stationary object it is locked to. Either the bike or the lock will break – the thief doesn't mind which – after all, it's not their bike!

### How to avoid it

Always fit your lock so that as much of the lock as possible is filled by the stand and bike (and maybe helmet). This will make it harder to insert tools between the lock and the stand. Never lock your bike by the 'top tube' (AKA 'crossbar') alone as this will allow for the bike frame to be rotated against the lock.

## Striking



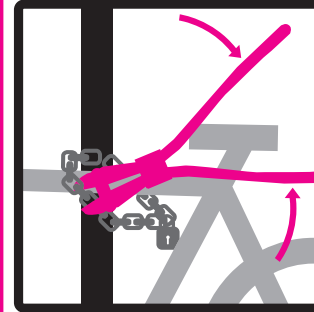
### How they do it

If your lock rests upon the ground thieves may use a hammer and cold chisel to split the securing chain or lock.

### How to avoid it

Always ensure your lock is fitted so that it cannot rest upon the ground or other immovable surface. This will allow the lock or chain to move if it is struck and keep your lock or chain in one piece.

## Cutting



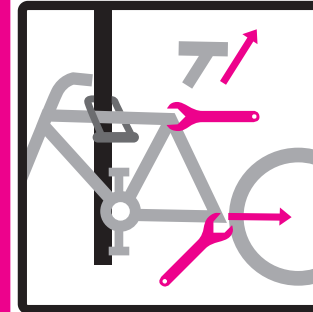
### How they do it

Thieves are known to use tinsnips, bolt cutters, hacksaws and angle grinders to cut their way through locks and chains to steal bicycles.

### How to avoid it

Don't make it easy for thieves. Some locks, such as coil or cable types, can easily be cut using readily available hand tools. More robust cutting equipment can be difficult to defend against. Expect to spend up to 20% of the value of your bike on your lock. Look at [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com) and manufacturer guarantees and security ratings to buy the best lock you can.

## Unbolting



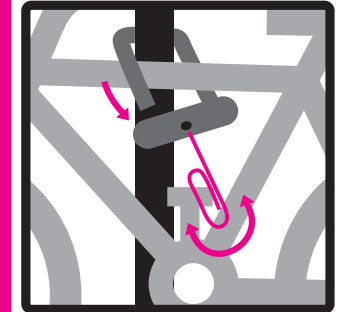
### How they do it

Thieves know how to undo bolts and quick release mechanisms. If you lock your bike by the wheel alone this is likely to be all that will remain when you return. If you lock only your frame then a thief may remove your wheel(s). If your wheels are stolen and you leave your wheel-less bike to pick up later the thief is likely to return before you and remove the rest of your bike.

### How to avoid it

Always lock both wheels and the frame of your bike to the stand and remove any quick release components such as saddle and wheels. If you only wish to carry one lock then secure skewers are a good idea. These are available from most good cycle shops and do not allow unauthorised removal of wheels, meaning you only need to secure your frame to the stand.

## Picking



### How they do it

Thieves can insert tools into the locking mechanism and 'pick' it open.

### How to avoid it

Most good locks are designed to resist 'picking'. Check that yours is one of them. Also, make it harder for the would-be thief by making the locking mechanism harder to get at. Secure your lock tightly to the bike and stand with the mechanism facing into the bike. Whilst this makes things a little more difficult for you it will make things a lot more difficult for a lock 'picker'.