How to Properly Lock Your Bike

1. Lock your bike to something secure. Check that a pole is not loose, or that it is bolted securely to the ground. Don’t lock to something so short the bike can be lifted over the top, or to scaffolding that is not securely bolted at both ends.

2. Don’t lock to anything smaller than the lock diameter. The thief will cut the thing the bike is locked to rather than bothering with the lock itself.

3. Secure the frame, the rear wheel and the front wheel. If possible, take the front wheel and/or the seat with you: a disabled bike is a low priority for thieves. Never leave even a locked bike outside overnight.

4. Lock the bike as tightly to the rack as possible to reduce leverage attacks.

5. Use a cable only to secure the front wheel to the bike frame and any object. Use a more serious U-lock to lock the rear wheel to the frame and the bike rack.

6. Use a cable lock that has the lock built in rather than a padlock that can be more easily cut with bolt-cutters.

7. The best locks are the smallest (less vulnerable to leverage attacks). A small U-lock with a chain is better than a chain with a padlock.

8. Use two different types of locks, such as a U-lock and a heavy cable— that will require a thief to use two sets of tools.

9. Keep the lock facing down to prevent water leaking into the lock cylinder and damaging the lock. Moisture inside the lock will rust the lock, or freeze in cold weather, and jam the lock.