

The Importance of Bike Registration



If your bicycle were suddenly stolen, you would probably call the police to report the crime. But would you be able to give the officers taking the complaint the essential information needed to get your bike back if it was found? Just what kind of bicycle did you own? What color was it? Most importantly, what was the bike's serial number? If you can't provide this information, the chances of you getting your bike back are pretty slim. Statistics show that over 15,000 bicycles are reported stolen every year in New York City and police only recover about 3% of them. One of the top reasons for such a low recovery rate is that bicycle owners do not know the serial numbers of their bikes. How can the police prove it's your bike if they don't have its serial number? If you are the owner of a bike, no matter

what make or how old it is, you should take the following steps to combat bicycle theft.

First, when leaving your bike outdoors, lock it using the most secure lock available to a stationary meter or post, and secure the wheels, seat and frame. Removing the front wheel will also deter a thief. Be creative. By making the bike less appealing and harder to steal, you can decrease your odds of having it stolen!

The New York City Police Department encourages everyone to register bicycles with their local Precinct's Crime Prevention Officer. It is a relatively quick process that involves entering the owner's name, address and phone number, and the bike's make, model and serial number into a log. Then a special registration number is assigned and the officer will engrave it into the frame of the bike. If your bicycle is ever stolen and the police find it, they will have the means necessary to return your property to you. Also, if they catch a person with your stolen bike, they will have the proof needed to arrest the suspect for theft or possession of it.

114th Civ-OP, Inc. has been working with the NYPD to help decrease the incidence of bicycle thefts in our area. Bicycle registration is offered whenever VIN etching events are held and at special events such as health fairs and bike races. If you would like to find out how to register your bicycle as soon as possible, contact the 114th Precinct's Crime Prevention Officer at (718) 626-9324 or 114th Civ-OP volunteers at 718-728-8763. There is also an organization called the National Bike Registry, which links your bike's information with police departments nationwide. They have been retrieving stolen bikes through their national database since 1984. To find out more about this program go to:

<http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com>

Take these preventive steps today, so you can enjoy riding tomorrow!