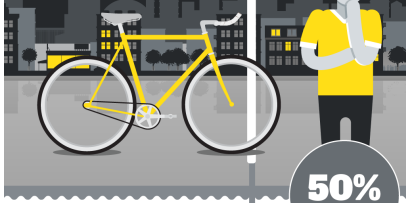


# HOW TO CHOOSE A BIKE LOCK

Finding the best lock for your bicycle can be difficult. There's a lot to choose from and the wrong decision can have disastrous consequences!

Here we'll guide you through 3 simple steps to guarantee you find the perfect lock for both you and your bike.



**50%**  
of cyclists will have their bike stolen\*

The first and most important step is to think about what level of protection you'll need.

## STEP 1: CHOOSE THE RIGHT LEVEL OF SECURITY

**What strength of lock do I need?**  
Two or more answers in this same column will determine your risk level.

	High Risk	Lower Risk
1 Where do you live?	Big town, city or university campus	Small town or village
2 Does your bike attract second looks?	Yes	No
3 How long do you leave your bike unattended?	More than 1 hour	Less than 1 hour



## How can I know how strong a lock is?

**90%**  
of stolen bikes were secured with cable locks. SO NOT ANY MORE!

Third party experts test locks with scientific rigor:

1 <b>Sold Secure</b> rate locks as Gold, Silver and Bronze. Silver rating should be sufficient. Choose the Gold rating.	2 <b>ART</b> rate locks with 1 to 5 stars. 2 stars should be sufficient. Look for 3 or more stars.
--	---

## STEP 2: CHOOSE THE RIGHT TYPE OF LOCK

**There are four well established types of bike lock to choose from:**  
Each of these lock types has strengths and weaknesses when it comes to:

Affordability Practicality Security

How does each lock score?

Lock Type	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Score 4
U-lock	38%	24%	38%	0%
Folding lock	32%	42%	26%	0%
Chain lock	30%	40%	30%	0%
Cable lock	49%	29%	2%	0%

**Pros:**  
 U-lock: Cheaper and lighter than chains and folding locks.  
 Folding lock: Easy to carry and a practical length.  
 Chain lock: Easy to carry and fasten around more objects than U-locks.  
 Cable lock: Long, light and cheap.

**Cons:**  
 U-lock: Complicated to carry and doesn't fasten around bigger objects.  
 Folding lock: Limited choice and doubts over durability.  
 Chain lock: Very heavy and usually expensive.  
 Cable lock: Your bike is not safe!

## STEP 3: CHOOSE THE RIGHT BRAND

When selecting a brand, it's important to be aware that you'll encounter varying degrees of:

Value for money Build quality Customer service

thebestbike.com offers up to date advice on choosing the right brand for your needs.

