

## London Borough of Southwark – Bike Theft Policy

Whilst using cycle hangar storage, it is important to keep your bicycle safe and secure. London Borough of Southwark are not responsible for any loss or damage to possessions stored within the hangar, and bicycles and accessories are left at the owner's risk.

The hangar reduces the risk of theft and damage, however it is still advisable to safeguard items by obtaining and using appropriate locks, to register and insure your bicycle, and have it security marked.

### Top tips for avoiding bicycle theft

- Double lock your bicycle where possible, through the frame and the rear wheel. Use recommended, insurer approved, Sold Secure Gold Standard locks. Locks deter thieves and slow them down, and makes your bicycle less of a target and Powered Cycle Diamond locks have some resistance to small angle grinders. Visit [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com) and [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) for more details.
- Ensure your bicycle is secured closely to the stand so there is less opportunity for leverage and manoeuvrability by thieves.
- Take the time to inspect the hangar for signs of damage and tampering, and report any defects to London Borough of Southwark. A maintenance team will be deployed as soon as possible to assess and repair where possible.
- Minimise opportunities for theft by removing quick release parts like wheels, saddles and accessories by taking these with you, or storing at home. Alternatively, items can be permanently secured to the frame.
- Registration of the bicycle frame number on a Secured by Design National bike registration database is desirable. The frame number can usually be found on the underside between the pedals, or where the back wheel slots in. Should your bicycle be stolen and recovered by the police, this will greatly assist with tracing and returning it back to you. Visit [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) for more information.
- Ensure you secure your London Borough of Southwark ID tag (issued with the hangar key) to your bicycle, and make a note of the ID number for future reference. This is another way your bicycle can be traced back to you in the event of theft.
- Be certain to insure your bicycle against damage and theft. Home insurance may not cover loss or damage to bikes when storing in a hangar, so please check with providers.

- Take photos of your bicycle and any distinguishing features or marks. These are often required for insurance purposes, but are useful to keep for future reference.
- Security marks are a visible and highly effective deterrent against thieves and allow your bike to be traced back to you in the event of theft. Security mark products can be purchased online.
- Be vigilant, ensure that bike parking is in well-lit, open and busy areas. Report any suspicious behaviour and do not advertise your whereabouts and personal property on social media.
- Lastly, if purchasing a bike second hand, insist on seeing proof of ownership and double check the frame number on a National Registration Database before agreeing to the sale. Be sure to meet at a home address rather than on the street to avoid purchasing a stolen bike.