

# How to avoid a stolen bike!

Written by Check That Bike! [checkthatbike.co.uk](http://checkthatbike.co.uk)

The below checklist will help walk you through some basic steps to avoiding stolen bikes.

## Looking at the advert

- Is the description good? Adverts posted by bike thieves tend to be deliberately brief or simply copied from a website.
- Is the price right? Look at other adverts selling the same bike does the price seem unusually low for what's on offer.
- Are there pictures of the bike? Thieves don't like to provide pictures of the bike to avoid the victim having the chance to identify it.

## Looking at the bike

- Is the frame number or asset tag reported as stolen? Make sure the frame number hasn't been reported as stolen using [CheckThatBike.co.uk](http://CheckThatBike.co.uk).
- Has the bike been reported as stolen? Google the make and model of the bike, the area the advert was posted and the word "stolen" and check the results to ensure none match the ads description.
- Are all the aftermarket parts mentioned? Does the bike have aftermarket parts that the seller hasn't mentioned, thieves often don't know much about the bike they are selling or swap parts out.
- Is there proof of purchase? In this day an age proof of purchase should be available.

## Looking at the seller

- Will the seller provide ID or a work email address? If they don't want the sale tracing back to them they are unlikely to provide these.
- Does the seller match the bike and it's size? For example it's unlikely that a large six foot something bloke will be selling a small ladies road bike.
- Does the seller know a lot about the bike? If it's an expensive bike the seller will often know something about how the bike rides, it's reputation. Expect them to know terminology as well.

## Seems dodgy?

If you are unable to tick off any of the above steps then consider if the bike is worth potentially lining a bike thieves pocket and the jail sentence that could come with buying stolen goods. If you believe the bike to be stolen contact the police on 101 or Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Not dodgy at all?

If you bought the bike it's well worth taking the time to record the bikes details either by emailing it to yourself or via a police marking session. Make, model and frame number will all prove useful.

*This check list is designed as a guide for avoiding stolen bikes in the used bike market, the reality is there is no sure fire way to avoid a stolen bike and as such we can't make any guarantee a bike isn't stolen even if it checks off everything.*