

Seatylock Addresses Campus Bike Security as U.S. University Police Warn Students to Use U Locks

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Following a series of back-to-school bicycle and micromobility theft warnings from U.S. university police departments in the summer of 2026, Seatylock has issued technical guidance explaining why owning a U-lock is not enough to prevent theft, and why fit, placement, and independent certification determine whether a lock actually protects a bike.

Several campus-security departments have recently advised students to secure their bicycles with U-style locks. On September 3, 2026, University of Wisconsin?Madison Police reported three electric bicycle and scooter thefts between August 27 and September 2, noted that theft typically increases as students return, and recommended securing the frame and wheels to a fixed object using a quality U-style lock. That warning followed an August 24, 2026 Arizona State University Police alert covering multiple bicycle, e-bike, and e-scooter thefts on the Tempe campus between July 2 and August 21, which also recommended high-quality U-locks. A July 10, 2026 Caltech security notice, issued after six bicycle theft reports in eleven days, advised riders to use Diamond-rated locks, secure the frame and wheels, and keep the lock fit tightly because excess space can enable leverage attacks.

Seatylock, a design-led mobility security brand founded in 2008, notes that these recommendations point to a technical detail many riders overlook. A larger shackle provides more reach but can also create unnecessary working space for leverage tools, so riders benefit from choosing the smallest size that still captures the required bike components and anchor. This principle is detailed in the Seatylock U-Lock Size and Fit Guide, which teaches cyclists to measure the bike and anchor rather than selecting a lock by strength alone.

Placement matters as much as hardware. The Seatylock Guide to U-Lock Frame and Wheel Security explains the difference between merely attaching a lock to a bicycle and routing it through the rear triangle and rear wheel to an immovable anchor while minimizing unused shackle space.

"When campus police recommend a U-lock, riders naturally ask what makes a U-lock setup actually secure," said Michael Shenkerman, Head of Product Education at Seatylock. "The answer is the interaction between certification, shackle size, the components captured, and the anchor. A lock that is mechanically strong but cannot complete the intended routing, or that leaves large gaps for a pry bar, is the wrong fit for that bike."

Seatylock also points to the difference between manufacturer-created security scales and independent standards. When campus guidance references Diamond-rated locks, riders can consult Sold Secure's approved-product database, which currently lists the Seatylock Mason 140, 180, 220, and 300 at Pedal Cycle Diamond level. The four-size Mason range reflects a broader point covered in the Seatylock Bike U Locks Guide: standard commuters, e-bikes, fat-tire bikes, and cargo bikes create different frame, wheel, and anchor-clearance requirements, so no single lock dimension suits every cyclist.

The scale of the underlying problem remains significant. A January 2025 peer-reviewed study published in Findings estimated that approximately 2.4 million adult bicycles are stolen annually in the United States, representing roughly 1.4 billion dollars in annual value.

Seatylock designs, produces, and assembles its products in-house, including cylinders and keys, and holds independent certifications from institutes including Sold Secure, ART, and FUB. Its product families include Foldylock folding locks, Mason U-locks, Viking chain locks, and the Seatylock hybrid seat-lock, built around the principle of protection perfected by design.

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Seatylock

Founded in 2008, Seatylock designs award-winning bicycle security solutions, including Foldylock folding locks, U-locks and chain locks, blending patented engineering, durable materials and rider-friendly design to help cyclists lock with confidence.

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