

Seatylock Addresses E-Bike Security Gap Behind Campus Thefts of Secured Bicycles

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A series of autumn campus crime reports showing that some stolen electric bicycles were already locked has prompted mobility security brand Seatylock to clarify the technical difference between a bike that is locked and one that is securely anchored.

The University of Pennsylvania's weekly crime report released October 6, covering September 21 through 27, documented multiple thefts from bike racks, including two secured electric bicycles along with several secured electric scooters and conventional bicycles. The pattern extends beyond a single institution. On September 28, the University of Delaware noted that thefts of e-scooters and e-bikes have become increasingly common on university campuses nationwide, advising riders to use a high-quality U-lock, park in well-lit areas and register their devices. UW-Madison Police reported three electric bicycle and scooter thefts in a single week in early September, connecting the risk to the return-to-campus period and recommending that riders secure the frame and wheels to a fixed object.

Arizona State University identified bike and scooter theft as the leading property crime on its Tempe campus, while reporting that thefts had declined by more than 40 percent over three years amid improved racks, cameras and rider education. That decline indicates that security behavior and infrastructure can change outcomes.

The reports raise a question for riders who believed their bikes were protected: how can a secured e-bike still be stolen. According to Seatylock, the answer lies in the distinction between locking a bike and securely anchoring it.

Seatylock has published educational resources that address these points in detail. The Seatylock Guide to Locking an E-Bike to a Rack explains how to capture the frame and rear wheel together with a fixed anchor and how the correct lock path varies between U-locks, folding locks and chain locks.

"Many riders think of locking as a yes-or-no action, but for an e-bike it is a system," said Michael Shenkerman, CEO and Co-Founder of Seatylock. "The better question is not whether the bike was locked, but what was locked, what it was locked to, what rating the lock carries and what parts remain removable. A lock that captures only a wheel, or that fails to connect the frame to an immovable rack, leaves the most valuable components exposed."

The Seatylock Guide to Choosing an E-Bike Lock examines how bike value, parking duration and theft exposure should inform lock selection, and why wider tires, larger tubing and step-through frames affect which lock fits correctly.

Shenkerman also pointed to certification as a practical reference point. "Proprietary security scores vary from brand to brand, so they are difficult to compare," he said. "Independent standards such as Sold Secure give riders a consistent benchmark across products." The broader Seatylock E-Bike Security Guide covers certified locks, correct technique, component protection, parking decisions, electronic deterrents and documentation for recovery.

Founded in 2008, Seatylock designs and manufactures independently certified bike security products, including folding locks, U-locks, chain locks, seat-lock hybrids, detachable seats and accessory protection systems. The company holds independent certifications and international patents, and treats the lock as part of the everyday cycling experience under its approach, "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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