

## Preventing Theft on Campus

How Not to be a Victim of Property Crime

Ads by Google | Crime Records | Crime | Online Safety | College In

Mar 25, 2007 [Ashlee D. Parker](#)

Tweet 0 | +1 0 | Like

When students head off to college with expensive gadgets, they need to take responsible steps to prevent their property from being stolen.

Students bring high priced items like bicycles, laptops, cell phones, and MP3 players to their homes-away-from-home. Dorm living is far from secure, and students should be attentive when caring for valuable property. Property crime on campus is rampant, but responsible ownership is often the best step to not becoming a victim.

### Prevention

Many students starting college will still be covered by their parents' auto and homeowners insurance. Students should verify what is covered and what is not. Students living on or off campus can get peace of mind and property protection from renters insurance. Be aware that many plans come with a deductible, so familiarize yourself with your policy so you are not surprised later when you need to make a claim. Record serial numbers and store them in an easy to access location so you can quickly provide them to police in the event of theft.

[How to Avoid Being the Victim of Identity Theft](#)

[College Student Insurance - Off Campus Rental Property](#)

[Protecting Against Identity Theft](#)

Secure bikes at bike racks and with solid locks. Inexpensive chain locks are easy for experienced bike thieves to cut through. A little more money spent on a good quality [u-lock](#) can protect your investment. Campus or local police often provide bike registration programs, so that if your bike is stolen or recovered, it can quickly be identified.

Electronic items like MP3 players, cell phones, and laptops are desirable to thieves because they can get good money and they are portable. The best way to prevent theft is to make the item hard to resell. Personalize with stickers or other touches on cell phones, MP3 players and laptops. If your cell phone is stolen, immediately call your provider to stop service. Software that tracks stolen computers is an option, but often costs a pretty penny for subscription service. The **S.T.O.P. security plate** permanently attaches to your laptop making it identifiable to police and registration with owner information makes for an easy return if it is found. The plate is nearly impossible to remove without damaging the laptop and leaves a permanent 'tattoo', making it impossible to pawn. Check with your university or local police because you can often learn valuable tips or receive discounts on security features.

Most property stolen on college campuses are items left unsecured or unattended. If you have to carry valuable property with you, do not leave it anywhere. Forgetting your bag or leaving it while you run to the bathroom can end up costing you. Always lock your car and residence doors, even when you are inside (and make sure your roommate does the same). Never leave property visible in your car. Even if your doors are locked, your car is not impermeable and you are advertising to thieves who know what to look for and how to get it. The same goes for your dorm room or apartment - put expensive items away out of sight, especially when you leave. Always be vigilant when walking alone or at night and do not flash cash or expensive items in plain view.

### More tips:

- \* Never carry social security cards in wallet or purse
- \* Make photocopies of front and back of important documents, ID cards, and credit cards for your records
- \* Buy a fire-proof safe for important documents and expensive property
- \* Do not keep your title in your vehicle
- \* Check with your university technology office for tips and advice about online protection
- \* Call and cancel stolen credit and debit cards immediately
- \* Permanently etch your name and or phone number into MP3 players, bikes and other expensive items
- \* Check with University and Police for crime prevention programs for students

### POPULAR TOPICS

[Instant Approval Cards](#) [www.CreditCardGuide.com](#)  
0% Intro APR On Purchases & No Fees Compare Credit Cards & Apply Here.

[Nebraska Student Housing](#)  
[www.claremontparkapts.com](#)  
Claremont Park Apartments at UNL Walk to Campus

[Life Experience Degrees](#)  
[www.LifeExperience.DegreeLeap.com](#)  
Find Universities Offering Life Skills and Experience Degrees.

### YOU MIGHT LIKE

[Never Tell Your Boss These Eight Things](#)  
(You Beauty)

[2012 US Holidays Observed: Public, Patriotic, Federal, Banking](#)

[7 Signs Your Employees Hate You](#)  
(Salary.com Business)

[Sample Letter of Recommendation for a Co-Worker](#)

[Industrial Hazards & Safety](#) (eHow)

[Sample Letters of Recommendation](#)