

12 Bike Parking Essentials for Retailers

Bike Rack Selection

1 BIKE RACK SUPPORTS FRAME

A bike rack should support the bicycle frame in two places, since most bikes aren't freestanding. Avoid outdated bike racks that only support the bicycle at the wheel, as these can damage wheels, and are not suitable for secure locking.

2 SPACES OF ADEQUATE WIDTH

Most manufacturers still sell outdated bike racks that do not accommodate the very common mountain-style handlebars (24" width). They often overstate the actual capacity their bike racks provide. Plan spaces for bikes at 2 feet wide by 6 feet long, per space, reflecting bikes' actual size.

3 ACCOMMODATES VARIOUS LOCKS

A bike rack should be able to accommodate U-locks, cable locks, and chains, and allow both the bicycle frame and wheels to be secured to the bike rack.



4 SIMPLE AND DURABLE

A bike rack should have no moving parts. It should also be sturdy and have a maintenance-free coating that doesn't damage bikes.



Locating Bike Parking

5 SAFE AND EASY ACCESS

Bike parking should be reachable without conflict with automobiles or with pedestrian thoroughfares. Access ways must not require bicyclists to traverse a parking lot to reach bike racks, as the many backing and turning movements of motor vehicles are hazardous for bikes. Stairs and curbs, obstacles for bikes, should be avoided.

6 SUFFICIENT SURROUNDING SPACE

Plan with the bikes in mind, not empty racks. Bikes are 2 feet wide by 6 feet long. Also allow room to maneuver in and out. Maintain at least a 2-foot clearance to all sides from all walls, poles, trash cans, and merchandise.

7 VISIBLE AND CONVENIENT

Locating bicycle parking in a highly visible and highly convenient spot is critical. Bike racks should be located as close as possible to entrances. If bike racks are around the side, at back, or in a garage, they won't be seen or used. Customers will improvise, locking to any nearby fixed object.

8 SECURELY IN VIEW

The security of bikes from theft and damage is greatly enhanced by locating bicycle parking in plain view of passers-by and of windows. Customers appreciate highly visible bike parking. For all-day use, as for employees, a higher level of physical security (bike room, cage, or lockers) is needed. Provide for both types of bike parking.



9 ON A LEVEL EVEN SURFACE

Bikes are hard to maneuver, lock and unlock on a sloped surface, especially when loaded with purchases. On a slope, they'll roll forward or back, and if there's a cross-slope, they will tend to tip. An uneven, cracked, or puddly area can also be a problem. The whole bike parking area should be level and even.

10 AFFIXED TO THE PAVEMENT

Bike racks should be solidly affixed to the pavement using tight, secure bolts or by setting in concrete. Bike racks should not tilt or wobble. Be sure bike racks cannot be hoisted to steal bikes.

11 ADEQUATELY LIT

If street lamps or outdoor building lighting don't illuminate the bike parking area, add appropriate lighting for ease of locking and unlocking bikes and stowing purchases--as well as for personal and bicycle security.

12 COVERED FROM WEATHER

Bicyclists appreciate cover from rain. Awnings should be adequate to cover bikes, not just empty racks. Overhangs should be sufficient to protect from blowing rain. Note: Retail customer bike parking should not be located in the depths of parking garages; all-day employee parking may be appropriate there, inside a bike cage or bike lockers.



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