

## BIKE SMARTS TIP SHEET

### A Guide to Protecting Your Motorcycle From Theft

#### *Get the Facts on Theft:*

### Rates Climbing at Full-Throttle

- According to the Motorcycle Industry Council, 1.25 million new households have purchased a motorcycle since 1998.
- In 2003 alone, bike sales in the U.S. jumped to nearly 1 million – that's the 11th consecutive year of growth.
- The past five years have experienced phenomenal growth, with sales doubling since 1999 and reaching their highest levels in three decades.
- The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) reports that **motorcycle theft increased more than 55 percent**

**from 2002 to 2003 in the U.S. and Canada – that's one bike stolen every 9.5 minutes.**

- Of these stolen bikes, only 25 to 30 percent were recovered, which is much lower than the 65-70 percent recovery rate of cars and trucks (those without a stolen vehicle recovery solution).

Reviewing these startling facts leads to the unfortunate conclusion that motorcycle theft is a big and lucrative business for thieves, making your bike more vulnerable than ever.

#### *Who's Behind the Problem?*

### Increasing Popularity of the Open Road Spells Big Business to Professional Thieves

While some steal motorcycles simply for their own personal use or to take a quick joy ride, most bike theft is done at the hands of professional thieves who know exactly what bike or bike parts are in demand. These thieves are skilled at maximizing the "return" they get on the bike...and at covering their tracks.

#### **Here's how these "professionals" work:**

- Thieves strip the bike down for parts - eliminating those

with identification numbers so they can't be traced back to the original owner.

- Remaining parts are resold or reused to build other bikes that are made from stolen and aftermarket parts - typically with altered identification numbers, making them just about impossible to trace back to the original owners.
- Some are in the "exporting" business, in which they sell parts overseas that are almost never recovered.

#### *Where Does Theft Occur?*

### Your Bike is Vulnerable Anywhere and Everywhere

Unfortunately, motorcycle theft happens just about anywhere. Whether you are at home where you think your bike is parked safely, out for a ride with your friends or at a rally, your bike is vulnerable to theft and needs protection.

Bike thieves are very calculating and know just what they want. They are often "shopping" for a particular make and model. Unfortunately, if your bike is on their wish list, they'll find a way to get it.

Bike shows are another popular venue for theft – like a "candy store" for thieves where they can check out the

bikes, identify the most valuable ones, and strike when the time is right. Thieves know that owners typically leave their bikes to attend certain events, giving them a prime opportunity to do their handy work.

While motorcycles are vulnerable to theft no matter where you live, theft rates are higher in certain parts of the country. According to NICB, the top five states with the highest reported motorcycle thefts are California, Florida, Texas, New York, and North Carolina.

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#### What You Can Do to Protect Your Bike:

## Keep Your Prized Possession Safe With Three Simple Steps

*Bike theft is a serious and growing issue. In fact, many bike owners say that the fear of theft actually prevents them from traveling to certain places where parking just isn't safe. Today, however, there are more options than ever to protect motorcycles from theft. At LoJack, we recommend a simple, three step approach to theft protection. The approach involves using common sense tactics, theft deterrents, and a stolen vehicle recovery solution.*

### 1. Common Sense:

Below are a few common sense measures to avoid tempting thieves. These tips will help deter amateur thieves, but unfortunately they usually don't stop the pros.

- When at home, always keep your bike in a concealed garage or storage area.
- Place large items/obstacles between your motorcycle and the garage door. Cover the windows.
- Never leave your keys in your bike.
- When out, choose parking spaces wisely like well lit areas, or in view of a security camera.
- When selling your bike, be wary of test rides –some thieves actually pose as buyers and will take your bike for a "test ride" and never return.

### 2. Use Theft Deterrent Devices:

Theft prevention devices provide an additional layer of protection that may deter some thieves.

- Properly use a bike lock.
  - Lock two bikes together, if possible and make sure the lock is tight around your bike.
  - Lock your bike to a secure, immovable object. Often times, thieves just lift bikes into trucks or vans, making wheel locks ineffective unless the bike is secured to something else.
  - If possible, loop the chain through the bike frame.
- Install an alarm. These noisy deterrents may help ward off some thieves. Alarms and locks can be an effective combination, particularly for the amateur thief.
- Install a hidden kill switch that offers the added protection of disabling the thief from starting the bike and riding off into the sunset. Kill switches either disable the ignition or cut power to the fuel pump.

### 3. Get it Back using a Stolen Vehicle Recovery System:

While steps one and two will ward off many amateur thieves and slow down some of the professionals, the unfortunate truth is that if a sophisticated thief really wants your bike, he or she will find a way to steal it. The professionals can defeat an ignition lock in an average of five seconds and an electronic alarm system in as little as 30 seconds. They also know just where to look for kill switches and can easily turn that switch off. And, locks can often be defeated by cutting them or by simply picking up the bike and loading it into a truck or van. For those reasons, our third important step is to install a stolen vehicle recovery system.

**How do they work?** If your bike is stolen, these systems help authorities to track it down and return it to you intact. The most effective systems have robust tracking and recovery capabilities, ensuring law enforcement can locate the motorcycle quickly.

With nearly 20 years in the stolen vehicle recovery business, LoJack offers a system that is the best and most serious solution for the growing problem of bike theft. LoJack systems are directly integrated with law enforcement (the company's Vehicle Tracking Computers are actually installed in police vehicles, aircraft and helicopters), and their robust radio frequency-based technology is a highly effective, proven solution for tracking down and recovering vehicles. In addition, the systems are covert – LoJack For Motorcycles is hidden on the bike so that thieves wouldn't suspect the device exists and therefore won't attempt to find and disengage it. It is these core strengths that have made LoJack so successful in recovering cars, trucks, and commercial equipment for nearly two decades. And, we guarantee to return your bike within 24 hours, or your money back.

To Find Out How To Install LoJack On Your Motorcycle, Visit [www.lojack.com](http://www.lojack.com)  
Or Call 1-800-4-LOJACK