

Revving Up with Expert Solutions

In the U.S., a motorcycle is stolen about every 9.4 minutes. Thieves are always on the lookout for an easy target that can be quickly stolen and sold or stripped down for fast cash.

Experienced criminals can steal your bike in a matter of seconds. Make your bike less appealing to thieves by adding security devices such as disc locks, cable locks or U-locks. Install alarms or other anti-theft devices that kill the ignition or starter, or install a recovery system to increase the chances of getting your bike back after it has been stolen. Clamp down on lift-away theft by securing your cycle to an immobile object.

No single security method is guaranteed to prevent theft. That's why installing multiple layers of protection is important. It takes time for thieves to defeat a combination of anti-theft devices, and that means it's more difficult to steal your bike without being detected.

The nation's property/casualty insurers are taking strong action against motorcycle theft and fraud crimes. But you can also help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of these and other fraud schemes by following simple prevention steps and using common sense.

If you suspect motorcycle theft and fraud activities, contact the NICB in one of three easy ways:

1. Text "FRAUD" and your tip to TIP411 (847411).
2. Call 1-800-TEL-NICB (1-800-835-6422).
3. Submit a form on www.nicb.org.

Your tip can be anonymous.

For More Information

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) is the nation's leading nonprofit organization exclusively dedicated to leading a united effort of insurers, law enforcement agencies and representatives of the public to prevent and combat insurance fraud and crime through data analytics, investigations, training, legislative advocacy and public awareness.

Learn more about motorcycle theft and how to protect yourself from these and other crimes on the NICB's Web site at www.nicb.org.



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Motorcycle Theft and Fraud

Half the Wheels, But All the Criminal Opportunity

Fraud Solutions **now.**SM

Fraud Solutions **now.**SM

Criminals Shift into High Gear

Motorcycles may only have two wheels, but they are tempting targets for thieves and insurance fraud scams. Like cars, sport utility vehicles and trucks, stolen motorcycles offer criminals a full-throttle avenue to huge profits.

Motorcyclists oftentimes spend a great deal of time and money to soup up their cycles, from elaborate paint schemes, to chromed parts, to specialized frames, to high-performance engines and exhaust systems. It's not uncommon for a motorcycle's base price to exceed \$20,000, with aftermarket parts adding thousands of dollars to the original cost.

These enhancements make motorcycles all the more attractive to thieves who are looking to cash in at your expense. Compared to a modern car with anti-theft technology, motorcycles are relatively easy for professionals to steal – on some models the locks can be defeated and the engine started in less than 30 seconds.

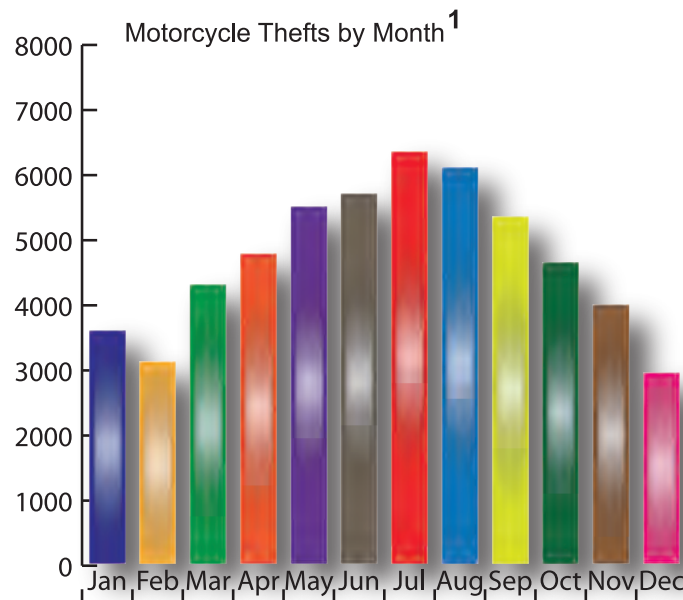
Stolen cycles are typically sold whole or stripped down in chop shop-like fashion for parts resale or reconstruction into another cycle. In addition, higher-end motorcycles are sought-after luxury items worldwide, promoting a large export market for stolen parts. The high profit potential for these stolen parts means that the odds of recovering a bike in its original, pristine condition are slim to none.



Apply the Brakes to Motorcycle Theft and Fraud

For most of the country, motorcycle theft is a seasonal crime that spikes in warmer months, especially July and August. But regardless of the time of year, motorcycle owners should be on guard to avoid becoming a theft or fraud victim. Given that criminals can easily alter, reuse and camouflage motorcycle parts and frames, recovery rates for stolen cycles are typically about 30 percent, versus 57 percent for automobiles.

In addition to theft, criminals also target motorcyclists with fraud scams. One of the most common scams occurs when criminals assemble a motorcycle using replica aftermarket parts, and then sell it as an original brand-name product to consumers interested in purchasing a used brand-name cycle. This is known as a “cloned” cycle and is an age-old method for ripping off unsuspecting motorcyclists. While stronger state titling laws on replica and salvaged cycles have helped discourage this type of motorcycle fraud, criminals still obtain and apply false vehicle identification numbers to cloned cycles.



Follow These Tips to Avoid Being Victimized

- Use common sense when parking your motorcycle: Lock your ignition, remove your keys and park in well-lit areas.
- No place is 100 percent safe – even your garage is vulnerable. Add an alarm or recovery system. Many anti-theft product and recovery manufacturers offer devices similar to those for automobiles.
- Don't store your title in your motorcycle's storage compartment.
- Place unique markings on your motorcycle and take photographs of them. If your bike is ever stolen, you can identify them to law enforcement.
- If someone is purchasing your motorcycle with a check or money order, don't turn over the title until the funds have cleared the bank.
- Be wary of used cycles titled or registered as an “assembled vehicle.” If possible, have your insurer inspect the cycle prior to purchasing it.
- Verify that a previously driven cycle titled and registered as a popular brand name is not an assembled clone made from aftermarket components.
- Look closely at used cycles for a title history that reveals numerous manufacturers' statements of origin for major components.
- Watch for cycles alleged to be “all custom.” They could be assembled from stolen or altered aftermarket parts, especially chrome components.
- Be on the lookout for cycles or major component parts that were allegedly acquired at a “swap meet.”
- Obtain an expert appraisal and/or insurance policy pre-inspection before purchasing and insuring a used cycle.

¹ NICB ForeCASTSM Report 2010.