



## Bicycle Racks on Private Property

The department cannot provide or install bicycle racks on private property, but we can provide you with guidance on how to go about this process.

Steps for Install:

1. **Gain permission from the owner or manager of the property on which your business is established.**
2. **Determine the type of bike rack that fits your customer/employee needs**
  - A. How many cyclists are you trying to accommodate?
  - B. Are there any space limitations on the property?
  - C. Does the bike rack need to be moved in the winter for plowing?
  - D. What level of security suits the environment?
3. **Installation requirements and associated costs**
  - A. If the rack requires mounting into the ground, hire a contractor or install in-house
    - I. One way you can find a contractor is through the city of New Haven [Small Business Development Program](#) Support small businesses!
    - II. No matter which route you take, If installation of a rack includes digging below the surface, **ALWAYS** make sure **Call Before You Dig** is contacted. It is a free service that will identify whether or not the area you plan to dig is safe. There could be utility lines or a water main underneath you and it is a state law in CT! Dial 811 or go to the website [www.cbyd.com](http://www.cbyd.com) and they will guide you through the process.

- III. If mounting into the ground, bike racks need to have a solid foundation. If installing in a parking lot, there must be a concrete pad to secure the rack. Asphalt will not provide enough solid purchase for bolts. Same goes for dirt. Bricks can come loose as well, so a concrete foundation needs to be poured for support and for added security.
  - IV. Any of these methods will add to the overall cost, so take this into consideration when considering the best location and type of bike rack(s).
- B. If it is a free standing rack (does not need to be mounted into the ground) consider securing the rack by chaining it to another immovable object so the rack cannot be removed from the premises.

#### 4. Bike Rack Design & Installation Details

- A. Racks that only allow for front wheels to be locked are not secure racks because the rest of the bike (bike frame and back wheel) can be easily removed from the locked front wheel. Racks that only provide one connection point to lock a bike, such as wave racks, are also not recommended.

Poorly designed common bike rack styles:

*(Racks that provide only one connection point for locking)*



Wave



Wheel Holder



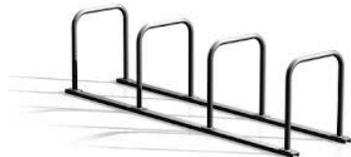
Comb or Fence

Well-designed common bike rack styles:

*(Racks that provide a minimum of two connection points for locking)*



Bike Corral  
(free standing)



Racks on Rails  
(free standing)



Inverted-U with  
cross bar



Inverted-U

- B. Bike racks often have the option to be powder-coated by the manufacturer. Powder-coated racks offer a layer of protection from varying weather conditions and are more aesthetically pleasing, however, galvanized racks provide the best measure of protection from weather conditions.
- C. There are many companies that manufacture bike racks. The city has ordered and installed bike racks from two U.S manufacturers. The inverted-u rack and the bike corral are made by Graber Manufacturing: [www.madrax.com](http://www.madrax.com) The parking meter hitch from Dero: [www.dero.com](http://www.dero.com) Both of these companies manufacture a variety of well-designed bike racks that will fit your particular need.
- D. The bike rack manufacturer will provide you with their recommended installation instructions, which detail install methods for the type of bike rack you've purchased.



**Businesses interested in supporting bicycle amenities** for their employees as well as for their customers can also apply to become a Bicycle Friendly Business through the League of American Bicyclists. The Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven received the Bike Friendly Business Bronze Award through LAB. Add yourself to the list! [www.bikeleague.org/business](http://www.bikeleague.org/business)

**For more information** regarding bike racks on private property or if you are interested in becoming a Bicycle Friendly Business,

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