

Items to consider for building an on-site, secure bicycle cage¹:

- 1) **Lease arrangement** – If your company or department is located in a leased facility, it is necessary to work with the property manager to review your lease before approaching the landlord. Consider trying to negotiate a mutual arrangement in which the building owner pays for a portion of the cost, e.g. construction or materials. In the event that your organization leaves the building, the landlord may require first option on whether to keep the compound or require you to remove it and restore the space.

When negotiating with the landlord, it would be helpful if you can indicate that other occupants of the building could share the compound. It also helps to offer to take responsibility for administration of the compound and to note that there will be little if any maintenance so that the landlord will not have extra work related to the facility. An external facility also removes the issue of people trying to bring bikes inside which can create problems around tracking in dirt, scuff marks on walls, interaction of occupants and bikes in elevators, etc.

- 2) **Location** – Outdoor bicycle parking should be located close to key building entry points and ideally, provide shelter for the cyclist and bike from sun, rain, wind and snow. The bicycle cage should not require users to go up or down stairs, obstruct pedestrians or render bicycles or their riders vulnerable to contact with passing vehicles.

Making use of an existing building for at least one side of the compound saves some costs and if you can find a spot between two buildings, you might only need to provide one side with a gate.

- 3) **Capacity** – A common way to create a highly secure bicycle cage is to convert a storage room or to enclose an automobile parking space with chain-link fencing (typically provides parking for about 12 bikes). Provide spare capacity beyond existing riders as the availability of secure bicycle parking may increase demand.

¹ Much of this information was drawn from Transport Canada's "Commuter Options: The Complete Guide for Canadian Employers" (www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/Commuter/menu.htm). Other sources included: Dave Elmore, Public Works and Government Services Canada, and Grant McCulloch, Environment Canada.

Examples of other bike parking info sources:

City of Toronto Bicycle Users Group Network: http://www.toronto.ca/bug/pdf/bicycle_parking_guide.pdf

Chicagoland Bicycle Federation's guide: http://www.catsmpo.com/bikeped/bike_parking_guide_web.pdf

State of Oregon, Department of Environmental Quality: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/IP1.pdf>

Wikipedia: <http://holisticearth.org/wiki/Bicycling#Storage>

- 4) **Materials & installation** – The most common material used for bike cages is regular chain link fencing with 2-3” posts. Examples of local companies that do this type of work are Shorty’s Fencing Ltd. (895-0202) and Wallace & Wallace Fences (452-2700).
- 5) **Bike racks** – Providing proper bicycle racks within a bike cage provides a second line of defense and also prevents damage or injury due to parked bikes falling over. All bicycle racks should permit cyclists to lock their bike frame and at least one wheel to the rack for maximum security. All racks should be securely mounted to the ground or wall with tamper-proof bolts.

Woodcock’s Rackworks is one Winnipeg-based company that sells commercial bike racks (www.woodcockcycle.com, 157 St. Anne’s Rd, Tel: 253-5896). Another local contact is Bike Stop: Bike Racks & Ad Racks (Darryl Kaschl, Tel: 224-3553 or email: info@bikestop-racks.com). For a list of Canadian suppliers, contact the City of Toronto Bicycle Users Group Network at bugs@toronto.ca or 416-392-7592.

- 6) **Administration** - Identify who will be responsible for the bike cage and its administration, e.g. controlling access, contact with users, etc.
- 7) **Cage lock-up** – Consider how access to the bike cage will be secured and controlled. One option is to use a combination lock that allows the administrator to change the combination as required, e.g. if an employee leaves the organization.
- 8) **Security** – Security is optimized when the bike cage is located within view of a parking attendant, security guard, employee work areas or surveillance cameras. It is recommended that users also lock their bikes to the racks within the bike cage.