

National Bicycle Registry

Frequently Asked Questions

How would I benefit from NBR?

The National Bike Registry provides an easy, inexpensive means to label and identify your bike to facilitate its return if lost or stolen. Police recover nearly 50% of all stolen bikes but often have no way to identify the owner and get them back. Because NBR works directly with law enforcement, your property's return is more likely. NBR is also a theft *deterrent*, as studies indicate that thieves are less likely to steal marked property due to resale difficulties.

Why is NBR better than simply registering with my local police or fire department?

Only NBR is a nationwide registration database, so if your bike is stolen in San Francisco, but is recovered in Berkeley, Oakland or even clear across the country in Boston, you can still get it back. Simply registering with a local service won't help you.

If a bike is registered with NBR and it's stolen, what happens next?

When the police find the bike, they call NBR or access the Web site and use any combination of factors to connect the bike to its rightful owner, including: the serial number on the bike, the serial number on the NBR label or simply, a description of the bike. NBR then notifies the owner via e-mail or postcard of the location of the bike.

How successful is NBR at returning bikes to owners?

So far, the success rate has been about 99 percent. Every time a police officer has contacted us about a registered bike, we've been able to give the law enforcement agency information about the owner so the bike could be returned. NBR is returning bikes weekly...and more.

How does registering with NBR deter theft?

While we mainly facilitate the return of stolen bikes items, an NBR label helps deter theft. Police say a label reduces "opportunistic" theft, make it harder to resell a stolen bike and greatly aid in identifying owners of recovered property.

What kind of items can be registered at NBR?

NBR registers bicycles and scooters. Boomerang registers everything else.

How do I subscribe to NBR? How much does it cost?

Visit your local bicycle retailer and look for the NBR display. Log onto the Web site at --- <http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com/> --- or call 1-800-848-BIKE (1-800-848-2453) to register your bike. When you register it a finder will be able to get it back to you even if the label is peeled off because your serial number and product information will be on your report. You can use the registration information for insurance or inventory purposes as well. There are three packages: \$10 per year for 10 years, \$25 for 30-year transferable membership and \$25 for a family membership which allows you to register 5 bikes for ten years.

Can NBR labels be removed?

NBR has developed the best and most durable labels available anywhere in the world, yet they can be removed by determined criminals. It does require; however, time and tools to remove them. Furthermore, destruction of the label itself is a crime in many states and countries, and it confirms suspicion that the item was stolen, making the resale more difficult and far less lucrative. At that point, it would be better for the "finder" to return the property with the chance of garnering a reward. Even without a label, a bike can often be identified by its serial number or even a simple description and as long as it's registered, it can be returned.

What happens if a bike is stolen and never recovered?

NBR will register your next bike for free (for the term of the previous registration).

What happens with a lifetime registration?

You can transfer a lifetime registration offer and every bike you own in the future will also be covered under that registration.... limited to one bike at a time.

What happens after my registration expires?

Before your registration expires, you will receive an e-mail reminder to renew your registration. If you choose not to renew it, our guarantee to maintain that information for you expires, but we continue to keep it in our database for one year. If your bike is reported found to us after expiration, you could still get it back at an additional charge.

What happens if I sell a registered item I own or buy a pre-owned object?

When you sell an item, you simply go into the Web site and de-activate the registration. Pre-owned bikes or scooters are registered no differently than a new product. If someone tries to register a stolen bike previously registered with NBR, the original owner can be contacted.

How do people return an item they have found?

The finder, perhaps the police or simply a Good Samaritan, logs on to <http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com/> and types in the NBR number, or calls 1-800-848-BIKE (1-800-848-2453). If the label has been peeled off, that individual can type in the item's serial number. From there, the owner gets a fax or e-mail notification and retrieves his or her bike. Or, for a small fee, NBR will ship the bike back to the owner.

Is my privacy guaranteed with NBR?

Yes. NBR is a secure site featuring the latest encryption technology, protecting your credit card information.

How does NBR work with the police?

We recognize that law enforcement involvement is one of the most critical components of successful property recovery. NBR has existing relationships with more than 16,000 police departments nationwide. In addition to receiving many benefits from law enforcement, NBR offers law enforcement a global system through which to track down lost and stolen property owners.

What's NBR's relationship to McGruff the Crime Dog?

NBR is the official bike registration service of the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), the McGruff the Crime Dog folks. A portion of sales of NBR bike registration packs go to support NCPC's crime prevention programs.

Does NBR work with insurance companies?

Insurance companies use NBR and the BoomerangIt reporting system to facilitate sharing information between police, insurance companies and policyholders. Insurance companies are more likely to use BoomerangIt's services, because their reports are provided to them at one-eighth their typical cost.

Does NBR partner with original equipment manufacturers (OEM)?

NBR researches and selects OEMs to add value to their products by offering a discounted registration rate and a readily available label upon purchase. Consumers then register their products at the OEM Web site or send the OEM the warranty card to sign up for NBR. The OEM provides a report to BoomerangIt and we provide the consumer with a free six-month registration that is initially charged to the OEM. This service encourages customer loyalty, demonstrating that the manufacturer not only cares about the sale but wants to help the customer keep his or her property safe after purchase, too.

Manufacturers already working with NBR include: Diamondback, Giant, Huffy, K2, Kryptonite, Mongoose, Raleigh and Razor. Distributors include QBP, Wilson and KHS.

What is BoomerangIt?

BoomerangIt is an Internet-powered global registration system that works with law enforcement, good Samaritans and other fiduciaries, such as hotels, restaurants and airlines, to help return lost and stolen property to its rightful owners. Whereas NBR registers bikes and scooters, BoomerangIt registers everything else. BoomerangIt can be reached via the Internet at --- <http://www.boomerangit.com/>

Bike theft:

The highest number of bike thefts occur in the summer months. FBI Uniform Crime Report (2000) says that the average price of the bikes stolen is \$276. More than 313,469 bikes reported stolen in 2000 (most aren't reported stolen, actual number probably up to 2 million), consumers lost over \$86 million to thieves.