

Bike storage in Glasgow tenements

More and more people are cycling in Glasgow. In fact, the number of people cycling into and out of the city centre has increased by 200% since 2007. And there is great potential for this to increase with 75% of all journeys currently made in Glasgow by any mode of transport being under 5km - a distance that could easily be covered by bike within 20 minutes.

Our own survey of southside residents revealed that a lack of secure cycle storage in tenements prevents many people from cycling more often or at all. Keeping bikes in the tenement close risks theft and can cause an obstruction. Inside flats floorspace may be limited and there is a risk of bikes falling over.

However, there are plenty of options to store your bike in unused spaces in your flat and this factsheet outlines a few of them.



Bike pulley

Make use of high ceilings in Victorian tenements and free up some floor space in your flat by installing a pulley for your bike. You do need some arm strength to raise and lower the bike, but its easy to install.

You can buy them in many local bike shops or online with prices starting at £15 and it usually takes less than an hour to install.



Vertical wall-mounted rack

These are perfect if you don't have much space to store a bike lengthways, or perhaps have some space behind a door or where you'd like to store other things as well as your bike.

They make use of the wall height without taking up too much width or depth.

Basic hooks can be bought in many local bike shops for as little as £5 but vertical racks with more features such as tilting (eg the 'Steadyrack' in this picture) can be around £55. They usually take less than an hour to install.



Horizontal wall-mounted rack

This type of rack is great if you have wall space wide enough to fit your bike horizontally but you want to free up floor space.

They support the bike by the frame's top tube and can also double as a work stand for making minor repairs such as fixing a puncture. They also fold flat against the wall when not in use.

They are available at many local bike shops or online for up to £30 for a basic rack and from £50-£130 for fancier racks that double as a design feature in your home. These usually take 30 minutes to one hour to install.

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Other options for secure bike storage

Some tenement blocks on the southside have access to a cellar or secure back yard in which lockable bike storage could be installed. This would require the agreement of the majority of flat owners in the block. There are also several options for secure bike storage on the street. Solutions such as bike hangars and lockers, pictured right, are likely to need planning permission and permission from Glasgow City Council's roads department. A trial of this type of storage has been implemented in Glasgow and in other local authorities such as in Edinburgh, Hackney and Waltham Forest.



Image credits: www.cyclehoop.rentals

Frequently asked questions

Will my wall/ceiling be able to support the weight of a bike?

Plaster alone will not be able to support the weight of your bike. You need to ensure that the rack is fixed to a joist in your ceiling or into the brick or stone behind the plaster in a wall. For ceilings, our how-to guide on installing a bike pulley outlines how to find a joist. For walls, make sure you drill deep enough into the wall to go into the brick or stone at least 2cm.

What if I don't feel confident enough to install a bike rack myself?

If you need cycle storage inside your flat but don't have time or the inclination to install it, South Seeds has a handy person service that can help - contact us for a quote.

What else can I do to secure my bike?

Register your bicycle model, make and frame number at www.immobilise.com or www.bikeregister.com. You could also extend your home contents insurance to cover your bicycle and make sure that it covers you for thefts outside the home too.

More information

South Seeds has produced a series of guides showing how to install different types of bike storage in your tenement flat. Download these and more at www.southseeds.org/projects/supporting-cycling-in-the-southside.

This factsheet was produced by South Seeds in readiness for the South City Way. The South City Way is a new active and sustainable travel corridor running from Queen's Park to the city centre. For more information about cycling in Glasgow visit www.glasgow.gov.uk/cycling.

For more information about what South Seeds does, or if you have any questions, you can visit our office at 514 Victoria Road, Glasgow G42 8BG, telephone on 0141 636 3959, email info@southseeds.org, visit www.southseeds.org, or check us out on Facebook.com/SouthSeeds or @SouthSeeds on Twitter.



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