

BUYING THE RIGHT BIKE FOR YOU



Buying a bicycle is a great investment in your health, environment, and happiness. This guide will help you find the best bike for your needs, whether you plan to cruise the neighborhood streets and trails in the parks, ride off-road, or commute to work.

WHICH BIKE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

ROAD

Good for commuting, racing and long road rides

- Great for riding on pavement
- Skinnier tires
- Typically rack-and-fender-ready
- Responsive steering



HYBRID

Good for commuting and transportation

- Sturdy and comfortable
- Wide range of gearing
- Typically rack-and-fender-ready
- Upright riding position
Example: Divvy Bikeshare bikes



COMFORT

Best for trips under five miles or leisurely rides on trails with the family

- Wide, smooth tires
- Upright riding position
- Rack and fenders often included
- Fewer gears
- Great for riding in dress clothes



MOUNTAIN

Good for off-road riding, rough terrain and short-distance commuting

- Wide, knobby tires
- Forward riding position
- Low gears for climbing hills

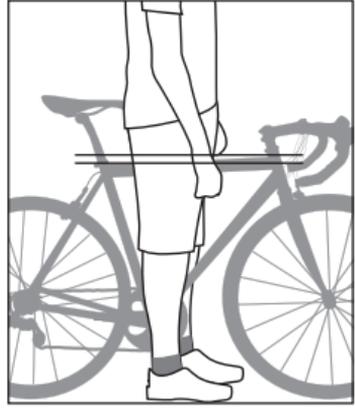


GETTING THE CORRECT FIT

Here's how to ensure that your bike fits properly

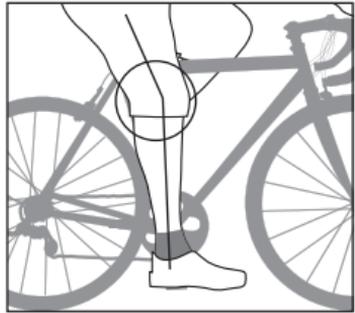
STAND OVER HEIGHT

The most important measurement! This measures the size of the frame in relation to your body. While straddling the bike over the highest point of the top tube, there should still be 1-2 inches of space between you and the bike; 2-3" clearance for a mountain bike.



SEAT HEIGHT

Adjust seat height so that your knee bends slightly when the pedal is in the 6 o'clock position. (This will mean having to point your toes to reach the ground while sitting in the saddle).



HOW MUCH TO SPEND

- Buying a bicycle is an investment, and paying more initially will reduce the long term costs of caring for it.
- Common starting prices of \$250-\$350 for a new entry-level hybrid, cruiser, or mountain bike. New road bikes are more expensive.
- Used bikes often cost less up front, and will often need repairs the first year. To be safe, add at least \$100 to the price of a used bike.

TIP

Remember to budget for crucial bicycle accessories such as a quality U-Lock (\$25), a certified helmet (\$30), front and rear bike lights (\$10 each).

WHERE TO LOOK

- **Bicycle Shops:** Knowledgeable staff, warranty and service plans; more expensive. For a list of Chicago bike shops, go to www.chicagobikeshops.info
- **Department Stores:** New bikes at lower prices; lower quality bikes than bike shops; often not assembled by qualified mechanics.
- **Online:** Wide variety of used bikes, competitive prices; difficult to test ride for proper fit, no guarantees.

www.chicagocompletestreets.org