

Bike Rack Placement Standards



Bike parking racks should be located within 50 feet (and no more than 120 feet) of the destination they serve. They should be placed in a visible area with significant foot traffic and, if possible, under an awning to provide protection from the weather. Such an awning is generally not possible with sidewalk installations.

Inverted “U” racks are strongly recommended because they provide two points of contact with the bicycle and allow the frame and both wheels to be locked to the rack. Inverted “U” racks may include multiple loops fastened to a single “footer.” This design is required for racks mounted on a surface other than concrete (including asphalt, brick, and pavers). Wave racks are discouraged because they do not provide two points of contact and the middle spaces can be difficult to access, but may be acceptable in some cases. Any non-standard rack or installation should be approved by the City of Oakland’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator prior to installation.



Measurements

- Footprint: 6’ long x 2½’ wide (the “footprint” is the area occupied by a bicycle when it is parked at the rack)
- Each rack: 32-36” tall, min 18” wide; series of adjacent racks should be placed, if parallel, a minimum of 30” apart or, if side by side, a minimum of 5’ apart

Location Details for Oakland’s CityRacks

- On public property in or near a commercial district
- Single-bend U racks must be installed on flat concrete sidewalk, free from cracks or other damage; multiple-loop U-racks on footers (bottom right photo) may be installed in crack-free asphalt or on decorative pavers



Clearance

There should be a minimum of 5½’ clear for pedestrian right-of-way outside the footprint, 7’ in areas of heavy pedestrian traffic. Rack should be located a minimum of:

18” from:

- Curb

30” from:

- Light pole

3’ from:

- Newspaper rack
- US mailbox
- Sign pole
- Bus shelter
- Driveway
- Surface hardware (PG&E, cable grates, etc.)
- Street furniture
- Standpipe
- Trash can
- Other sidewalk obstructions

4’ from:

- AC Transit red zone
- Loading zone
- Blue zone (disabled parking)
- Curb ramp
- Crosswalk
- BART entrance
- Storm drain inlet

5’ from:

- Fire hydrant



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