

## Rice Bikes Renter's Agreement

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- Student Activities President's Programming Fund (SAPP)
- Dr. Bill Wilson Student Initiative Grant
- Rice Endowment for Sustainable Energy Technology (RESET)
- Rice Energy and Sustainability Office

I, the renter, understand that I must adhere to specific expectations for the proper and sustainable operation of the Rice Bikes rental program. I agree to the expectations detailed in the following pages and agree to pay any fines or additional costs that may occur if I do not meet these expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## How to Keep Your Bike Happy

During the semester, you are responsible for properly maintaining your bike. Trust your gut - if something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Here are some things to look out for:

### 1. Tire pressure

Keep your tires inflated between 70 and 90 PSI. There are public bike pumps at Rice Bikes and H&D.

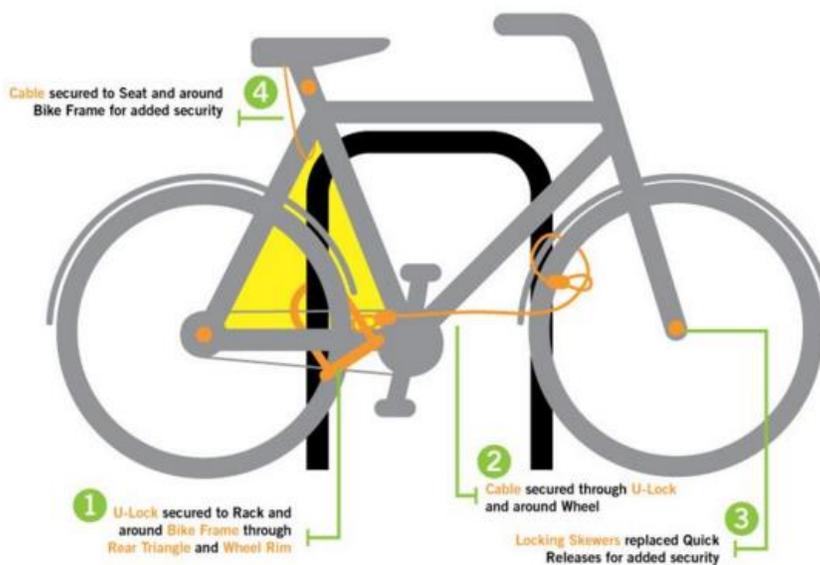
### 2. Maintaining your chain

Listen to make sure your chain sounds smooth, and take it in to us to have it lubed when it sounds rough. DO NOT use WD-40 or non-bike lubes.

### 3. Lock your bike

Lock your bike in a well-lit area that has high traffic. Lock your bike with the provided lock according to the diagram below. Lock through the rear wheel in the rear triangle.

## Using the Rear Triangle



### 4. Brakes

Two things to look for. One, are they responsive? If not, this is unsafe and needs immediate repair. Second, do they rub against the wheel? If so, the wheels likely need adjustment.

## **5. Tire wear and tear**

As tires get old, they begin to wear down and the fibers behind the rubber begin to show. If you see this happening, bring your bike into the Bike Repair Shop as soon as possible. Overly worn tires have a tendency to pop inner tubes (the “balloon” inside the tire that inflates to maintain the pressure).

## **6. Odd noises, squeaks, or clicks.**

### **General Bicycle Safety and Etiquette**

Bicyclists are not exempt from any of the rules of the road followed by drivers, and there are several additional rules that must be followed when biking on streets and on Rice Campus. Below is a brief summary of some of the most important rules - you are responsible for knowing ALL rules regarding bicycling on campus and in Houston before using your rental bike!

### **On the Streets of Houston**

1. Signal, with your arms, which direction you're turning.
2. At night, use lights to make yourself more visible to cars (a white front light is required by Texas law when biking at night)
3. Obey all traffic laws as though you were a car (this included traffic lights, stop signs, and pedestrian crossings!)
4. Stay to the far right side of the road except when entering a turn lane
5. Bikes are allowed on sidewalks in Houston in non-commercial areas
6. Maintain a reasonable speed and be predictable
7. Be respectful and aware of other vehicles. Just because you can see them doesn't mean they can see you!
8. \*Wear a helmet (although not required unless under 18, this is strongly recommended)

\*Remember - in Houston, bicycles are considered the equivalent of motor vehicles and are treated as such by the law.

### **Additional Rules for Rice University Campus**

1. Stop at all stop signs (RUPD can give you a ticket if you do not stop!)
2. Yield to pedestrians, especially at crosswalks
3. with the flow of traffic, never against it (do not bike the wrong way on the inner loop)

4. Ride on the right, but pass on the left
5. Slow down to pass pedestrians - warn them by yelling or ringing a bell
6. Walk your bike under covered walkways and wherever signs instruct you to walk your bike

Like with any mechanical device, unusual noises are never a good sign. If you hear anything out of the ordinary, especially something that seems to sync up with the turning of the wheels or the rotation of your pedals, definitely mention it to the mechanics at the Bike Shop.

## **Renter Expectations**

In order to ensure proper maintenance of the bicycles, renters are required to adhere to the rules of the rental program. Failure to follow these rules will result in extra charges (stated below) and possible non-continuance in the program.

### **1. Tire Pressure**

- a. Failure to keep tires properly inflated can result in pinch flats, which are easily distinguishable from other flats.
- b. To prevent pinch flats, renters are required to check their tire pressure once every two weeks and inflate to the appropriate pressure when needed (70-90 psi). There are two air pumps located behind the main Housing and Dining Office that can be used if you do not have access to a pump at your college/residence. Additionally, the Rice Bikes offers free pump service. You can also look for a pump at your college- they should have one for their beer bike bikes.

### **2. Late Fee**

- a. If your bike is not returned by the date specified by Rice Bikes, a \$30 late fee will be removed from the rental deposit. Each additional day the bike is late will result in another \$5 charge. If the Bike is not returned within 15 days, the renter will forfeit their deposit and will no longer be able to rent a bike in the future.
- b. If the renter fails to return their bicycle after the 15 days with no contact, it will be considered bicycle theft and the case will be taken to RUPD.

### **3. Improperly Locking Your Bike**

- a. Bikes are to be locked by both their frame and rear wheel, to a solidly grounded object. The grounded object must have a way of preventing locks from coming loose (ie. no open tops).
- b. If a bike is reported as being improperly locked by a Rice Bikes employee, penalties are as follows:
  - i. First offense results in a warning by email
  - ii. Second offense results in a \$20 fine taken from the rental deposit

- iii. Third offense results in another \$20 fine and dismissal from the rental program, with no refund of the rental fee. The remainder of the deposit minus any repairs and fees will be returned once the key has been returned
  - c. **If the bike is found not locked to anything, you will receive a \$20 fine. If it is found unlocked a second time you will be dismissed from the program with no refund of the rental fee. The remainder of the deposit minus and repairs and fees will be returned once the key has been returned.**
- 4. Lost and Stolen Bikes**
  - a. Lost and stolen bikes carry a maximum fine of \$400. Actual fine will vary based on specific circumstances as determined by Rice Bikes.
  - b. Lost and stolen parts of bikes will result in charges for the replacement of those parts.
- 5. Lost keys will result in a \$25 replacement fee. If a key is lost please contact us at [ricebikes@gmail.com](mailto:ricebikes@gmail.com).**
- 6. Renters are required to report any damage, theft, or problems with their bicycle as soon as possible to Rice Bikes ([ricebikes@gmail.com](mailto:ricebikes@gmail.com)).**

Remember, this program is designed to help bike renters travel around Houston. Additional charges are unlikely unless the bike is used in a manner unintended by the scope of this program.

### Early Return Fees

If for some reason you choose to return your rental bike to Rice Bikes before the end of your rental period some fees may be taken from your rental fee in addition to any additional repair costs.

- Returns within the first week of the rental period - refund of security deposit and 80% of rental fee
- No returns after the first week of the rental period

### Rental Fee and Damage/Replacement Costs

The cost for this rental service is \$60 per semester. You are expected to pay \$60 by check or cash on or before you pick up your bicycle. In addition, you will be required to pay a \$100 deposit that will be returned at the end of the rental period if there are no excessive damages and the bike is returned on time. The rental charge covers the following:

<b>An On-Guard U-Lock with one key for each renter.</b>	Locks are expected to be kept in like-new condition. Renter will be charged the
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	replacement cost for lost keys or lost/damaged locks (\$25).
<b>A flex light set</b>	The flex light sets include one front (white) light and one rear (red) light set, both with batteries. Replacement batteries are covered by your rental fees.
	Because these are flex light sets and easily removed, the renter is expected to take the lights on and off their bike as needed to prevent water damage and theft. Lost light sets will cost the renter \$0 to replace.
	Water damage will not be covered by the rental fee. You will be charged for battery replacement or light replacement if needed.
<b>Basket</b>	Removal of the front basket is possible, with a \$10 labor charge that the renter is expected to pay. Renters with excessively bent or misshapen baskets will be charged for the replacement of their basket.

### Repairs and General Maintenance

The renter is expected to follow the above expectations and guidance. An **important** change to last semester's program is the renter is **no longer** required to come in for a monthly checkup. If there is an issue, he/she will be considered as a regular customer and the appropriate maintenance will be provided for the bike.