

All about bicycles...

- Main frame is usually made from aluminium.
- Rubber tyres.
- A few bikes are designed in this country, but many are designed in the US or Germany.
- 95% of bikes are now manufactured in Taiwan, China and other Far East countries. Bikes are then distributed in the country that sells them on to shops, who sell them to the customer.
- Even Raleigh, a 'British' company have their manufacturers in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Every bike has around 43 separate parts, and paint, and the cardboard boxes that they are transported in.

Parts of a bicycle:

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Frame | • Top cap | • Box guide | • Skewers |
| • Decal | • Spacer | • Chain | • Saddle |
| • Fork | • Stem | • Cassette | • Seat post |
| • Front and rear suspension | • Handlebar | • Pedal | • Seat release |
| • Front and rear brakes | • Bar ends | • BB set | • Reflectors |
| • Brake levers | • Grips | • Rims | • Reflector brackets |
| • Brake cables | • Shift levers | • Front and rear tyres and tubes | • Kickstand |
| • Headset | • Shift cables | • Rim strips | • Mud guards |
| | • Front and rear derailleur | • Spokes | |
| | • Chainwheel | • Spoke protectors | |
| | • Chainwheel cover | • Front and rear hubs | |



Where does stuff come from?

Paint

There are three basic ingredients in car and bike paint:

- Resin (often linseed oil based)
- Pigment
- Solvent
- The resin is the component that holds together the pigment in suspension, provides adhesion to the surface applied, and determines the quality and paint durability.
- The pigment makes up the colour in the paint and is added as a powder.
- The solvent is what makes the mixture runny enough to paint on
- The largest vehicle paint producer is Standox in Wuppertal, Germany.

Synthetic Rubber

- Synthetic rubber (rubber that's not made from natural rubber but in factories from a mixture of chemicals) is used for the soles of most shoes because
- It's hard wearing
- Flexible
- Waterproof
- Most shoe soles are made from a mixture of natural rubber and synthetic rubber. Synthetic rubber is plastic based and therefore is a product of crude oil.