



A guide to sending BEN a container of bicycles



Sending BEN a container of bicycles

As most of the bicycles donated to BEN are distributed to our Bicycling Empowerment Centres (BECs) it is important that the bicycles are suitable for the communities in which the BECs operate. Most popular are bicycles that are complete and rust-free. As the terrain on which the recipient of the bicycle will most probably cycle will be either hilly or be a gravel road, 26" mountain bikes (with suspension) are most in demand. Hybrids and vintage (700c) bicycles are also popular. Road-bicycles, three-speed cruisers and children's bicycles (16" and 20" without any plastic parts) are also wanted.

Breakdown of the variety of bicycles to collect for a 12m container with 450 bicycles:

%	Qty	Type
50	200	26" Mountain bicycle
10	50	Hybrid bicycles
10	50	700c Vintage bicycles
10	50	Three-speed cruisers
6	30	Road- bicycles
6	30	16" children's bicycles
8	40	20" children's bicycles
100	450	Total

What container is most suitable for shipping to BEN?

We prefer a **12m container** (with extra height) as the shipping and clearing cost in relation to the quantity of bicycles is much less than for a 6m container.

Generally we prefer that the donor *rents the container from the shipper* rather than buying the container and then donating the container to BEN, although this is not always the case (contact us to check first). If we do not have a need for the container, the cost saving of renting the container (instead of buying) can be passed on to BEN to assist with the clearing cost of the container here in the harbour.

How to load a container

The most bicycles can be fitted in a container if the pedals of the bicycles are taken off and tied to the bicycle and the steering wheel is turned side-ways. When packed in this manner, depending on the mix of type of bikes, 140-150 bicycles should fill a 6m container and 450-490 bicycles can be loaded into a 12m container.

What documentation should the donor prepare and forward to BEN

- Commercial invoice
- Packing list
- Bill of Lading



Before going ahead with supporting BEN through a donation of a container of bicycles, please contact us at info@benbikes.org.za or Tel +27 (0)21 7884174 and we can guide you through the process.



Type of bicycles not to collect:

These bicycles are not in demand by the communities in which BEN operates or are too expensive to repair.

- Any bicycle with excessively rusted parts
- Any incomplete bicycle that needs expensive parts
- 12" children's bicycles, especially those with plastic parts

What are the costs involved?

Below are the costs which are incurred by BEN for each container of donated bicycles we receive.

Although the bicycles are donated, BEN relies on support from our donors to assist us in funding these containers as the associated costs to receive, store and distribute these bicycles are high.

Please note these costs do not include any labour, collection, transport or storage costs which are incurred in the donor country.

For an amount of **R411** per bicycle, BEN will be able to distribute one fully funded container of bicycles to our Bicycling Empowerment Centres (BEC's) around the Western Cape, as well as schools and communities with a need for mobility. Your contribution will allow us to mobilise 450 individuals, in disadvantaged areas such as Mitchell's Plain, Manenberg, Lavender Hill, Westlake, Masiphumelele, Ocean View, Struisbaai, Montagu and Merweville.

Importation costs	R50 000
Shipping	R30 000
Clearing	R16 000
Other (Embargo/harbour storage)	R 3 000
Transport container to site	R 1 000
Total Direct Cost (labour/storage etc)	R60 000
Indirect costs incurred by BEN	R75 000
TOTAL COSTS	R185 000



Good Condition



The general visual appearance of the bike is excellent, with all the major components intact.



The derailleur and gear cluster are in good condition with no rust. The gear cable is securely attached with no fraying. No missing, broken or rusted spokes.

The pedals are intact and can rotate (note, the pedals should be removed for shipping and secured to the frame using cable ties). The crank and front chainrings are free of rust and significant scuffing.



The handle bar tube is structurally undamaged. Handlebar grips are present and in good condition. The gear and brake cables are securely attached with no fraying.



The brake mechanism is rust free, complete and securely attached. The brake cable is connected. Brake pads are secure and aligned to the rim and still have usable compound. The rim is true and dent free. The tyre has remaining tread.



Average Condition



The bicycle has good visual appeal with all components present. There are some signs of wear.



The derailleur, despite being old, is free of significant rust and is securely attached. In this case, the chain has some rust and is showing signs of significant wear.

The crank and chainrings are in relatively good condition, although the chain is clearly stretched. The pedals (to be removed for shipping) are in fair condition.



The brake components are intact, although out of alignment. There is some surface rust. The pads are significantly worn, but still have some useful life. Similarly, the tyre tread is worn with some useful life.

While the handle bar shows some surface rust and wear, it is still structurally sound. Brake and gear cables are secure.





Poor Condition



This bicycle shows significant wear and tear and is badly rusted. Components such as the front brake are missing.



This bicycle has significant rust on most of its components. The drivetrain is dry and rusty, as are the stand, carrier and chain guard. This takes significant resources to remedy.

Key elements of this bicycle are damaged by rust. The headset is rusted, impacting on the safety of the bike. Front brakes are not present.



Significant rust can be found on the cranks, pedals, chainrings, mudguard and chain guard. The time and effort required to fix this severely undermines the value of this bike as a donation.

