



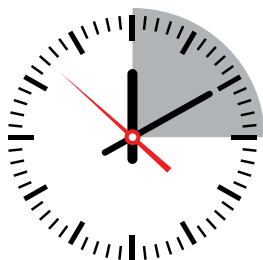
BOATS & YACHTS THEFT PREVENTION

TIPS FOR PREVENTING BOAT THEFT

Every year, thousands of watercraft are stolen in the U.S and only half of them are recovered. No one wants to head to the marina for a day of sun and fun, only to find out their boat is missing. Luckily, there are a number of ways you can deter thieves from boat stealing.

EXPERTS SAY IT'S ALL ABOUT TIME, NOISE AND VISIBILITY:

SLOW THEM DOWN



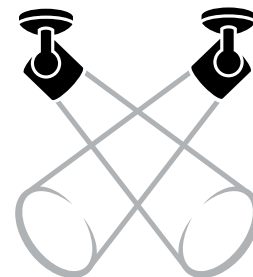
Do things that significantly slow down the time it takes to steal a craft.

MAKE NOISE



Add measures, such as alarms, to make noise.

SHINE A LIGHT ON IT



And provide adequate lighting so that intruders can be seen.



GENERAL SECURITY TIPS

- If you use a marina, choose one with full-time security and good lighting.
- Never leave your key in the ignition or “hidden” on the boat when unattended. Thieves know the best hiding places.
- Install an anti-theft alarm, kill switch or tracking system.
- Secure the boat so it can't be easily moved. When using a trailer, install a quality trailer hitch lock.
- If the boat will remain on the trailer, consider removing a wheel from the trailer and hide it in a locked location away from the boat. Or, chain and lock all wheels to each other and the trailer frame, so that it can't be rolled.
- If your boat includes a dinghy, stow it onboard when your boat is moored on the water. Otherwise, use a cable and padlock to secure it. If the dinghy has an outboard motor, either remove and store it or add an outboard motor lock, securing it to the transom.
- If the boat is stored at home, place in a location not visible from the street. If possible, park it so that the trailer tongue faces away from street, to make maneuvering more difficult. Install stern drive and propeller locks to slow would-be thieves down.
- If you have a dolly jack, raise it to full height and lock it there.
- Install deadbolt locks on all doors; secure ports and windows with inside auxiliary locks.
- Use strong inverted hasps and padlocks to all hatches. Secure lockers with non-removable hasps and hinges, using a strong padlock.
- Remove the registration, title or document papers when the boat is stored. Just don't forget to bring them with you when you take the boat out.
- Remove all personal property that can be easily taken, such as fishing equipment or portable electronics. Otherwise, lock them down. Using a diamond-tipped tool, etch your driver's license number on expensive items.
- Maintain an inventory list ashore that includes all boat gear with the name, model, serial number, manufacturer, and description of each item. Digital images or photos of your gear could also go into this file.
- Using the same etching tool, add your driver's license number in a hidden spot on the motor, and if the vessel is stolen, tell police where to find the number for easier identification.
- Paint state numbers on – peel-offs make easy rip-offs.
- Make sure your boat insurance is up-to-date.

LET'S TAKE A DEEP DIVE INTO TIPS YOU CAN USE:

POWER BOATS

- Remove the distributor rotor (if there is one) or take out the spark plug cable when you leave.
- For long absences, also consider taking your propeller.
- Use a patented locking bar to keep the pad nuts from being loosened.
- Lock portable gas tanks on board.
- Use gas-line locks to prevent thieves from using their own gas supply.

SAILBOATS

- Either remove all sails or stow them all below. Run a chain through the clews and lock them to the boat structure.
- If the main must be left on the boom, then run a chain through the headboard and under the boom – and lock both ends together.

Protect your fun and freedom out on the open water by incorporating these security tips to keep your boat safe from theft.

Check with your agent to make sure your insurance is up-to-date, so that if the worst occurs and your boat or equipment is stolen, you're covered.

CONTACT INFORMATION

COVERING BOATS, YACHTS, COMMERCIAL MARINE AND MORE FOR OVER 20 YEARS.



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