

There are many alarm systems which can be installed on your boat. Care should be taken to select one designed for marine use -- one that is resistant to water, salt, and humidity.

REPORT IT

If your boat trailer or gear is missing, report it immediately to:

- Local enforcement agencies
- Your insurance company
- Your dock or harbormaster
- Your neighboring boaters
- The local boating newspapers

Use your written and photographic marine record to give specific and complete information.

WHEN BUYING A BOAT

Be careful when buying a boat, because it could be a stolen vessel:

- Be certain that the boat's description on the title matches the boat you are buying. Check year, make, length and hull identification number.
- Verify all ID numbers to be sure they haven't been tampered with.
- Be sure the model and serial numbers on an outboard motor have not been removed or tampered with.
- Be suspicious of a fresh paint job on a late-model vessel.
- When buying a used vessel, deal with a reputable marine dealer or a broker licensed by the State of California.

This pamphlet was prepared by the California Department of Boating and Waterways with the cooperation of the United States Coast Guard, the Crime Prevention Center of the California Department of Justice, and others.

MARINE SECURITY RECORD									
VESSEL NAME	REGISTRATION NUMBER	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	LENGTH	TYPE	STATUS	STATE	FROM: (FOR NEW BOATS)
OWNERS (LAST NAME, FIRST)	REGISTRATION NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	LENGTH	TYPE	STATUS	STATE	FROM: (FOR NEW BOATS)
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	LENGTH	TYPE	STATUS	STATE	FROM: (FOR NEW BOATS)		
REGULATORY AGENCY	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE
TRAILER	TRAILER	TRAILER	TRAILER	TRAILER	TRAILER	TRAILER	TRAILER	TRAILER	TRAILER
REGULATORY AGENCY	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE
REGULATORY AGENCY	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE	REGISTRATION OFFICE
EQUIPMENT:	WATER LIGHTS	SCOUNDING LADDER							
PFD'S	UMBRELLA	RADAR							
FIRE EXTINGUISHER	GAS TANKS	BILGE PUMP							
BATTERY	BATTERY	BATTERY							
COMPASS	ENGINE	ENGINE							

MARINE SECURITY

METHODS TO STOP AND DISCOURAGE THEFT



State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS

Gray Davis, Governor
State of California

Mary D. Nichols
Secretary for Resources

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MARINE SECURITY

Although organized marine theft is on the rise, there are many things you can do to protect yourself and your property against thieves.

Boaters are advised to practice the common sense crime prevention measures mentioned in this pamphlet and to keep in mind the three factors which discourage thieves everywhere:

- time
- noise
- visibility

Any crime prevention technique which requires a thief to spend more time, to make more noise, or to be more visible during the commission of the crime, may discourage the thief altogether.

BOATING EQUIPMENT

Mark it Engrave your driver's license number on all of your valuable boating gear. Include the prefix CA to indicate California, or if from another state, the abbreviation of that state. This will enable authorities to trace lost or stolen items. You have a better chance of recovering your property and the authorities have a better case to prosecute.

Photograph it Photograph, or video tape, the interior and exterior of your vessel showing all installed equipment and additional gear carried. A photograph of any unique features, equipment, or even identifying marks or scratches can be useful. Open drawers and lockers and photograph interiors and contents. Date and sign the photographs and add any clarifying or identifying messages. Store the photographs or video tapes in a safe place -- not on the boat.

Record it Compile a written inventory of your marine equipment, boat and trailer. List all electronics, outboard engines, and other gear by brand name, model and serial number. Use the attached "marine security record" or design one of your own, and store it, along with your photo record, in a safe place away from the

boat. Also provide your insurance company with a copy of both documents.

Record information about your boat by the make, model, registration number, and hull identification number. It is a good idea to engrave your hull identification number, or driver's license number with your state's designated letters, in one or more hidden places on your boat. Write down the location of the hidden number or numbers and store it with your inventory and photo record. If thieves alter or remove your boat's original hull identification number, the hidden number can be used for identification.

Store it Probably the best way to keep thieves from removing property from your boat is not to leave it aboard. When securing your vessel, take home as much gear as you can, including your TV, radio, CB, outboard engines and other gear. If it is not practical to take it with you, store it aboard in a cabinet or locker with a good quality lock. Make sure you remove the key code or combination code from any lock you use. Chain dinghies or outboards left on board. A secure boat cover would also help -- out of sight, out of mind.

TRAILERABLE BOATS

Trailerable boats are the most frequent targets of marine theft. Stealing a boat is much easier if a thief can hitch up to your boat and trailer and drive away. These tips may help:

- Store your boat and trailer in a locked garage or storage shed.
- If you store your boat at home, put it in the back or side yard out of sight.
- Store it with the tongue of the trailer not easily accessible to a thief.
- If you must store your boat in an open driveway, carport, or open side lot, park another vehicle or other large object in front of the trailer.
- If your boat will be stored on a vehicle roof rack for an extended time, chain and padlock the boat to the rack.
- An effective preventive measure for outside storage is to remove one trailer wheel -- store your spare tire separately or secure it with a chain and lock.

- Secure your boat and trailer to a pole or tree with a good quality chain and lock.
- Purchase a good quality trailer hitch lock and use it -- even if you store your boat indoors.
- If you must leave your boat along the shoreline during an extended outing, you may want to remove your outboard motor or secure it with a transom lock.

VESSEL SECURITY

Boats are not generally constructed with security in mind. However, there are several things you can do to reduce the risk of vessel theft.

Heavy duty hinges can be placed on all outside hatches. Hatches can be locked with heavy duty safety hasps and good quality padlocks. However, they are of very little value if they can be pried off. Place match plates on the inside of the doors and hatches and, if possible, bolt through. Interior locking devices can be installed on hatches -- particularly forward hatches. **If these are installed, they should be in the unlocked position while under way.** There are a number of window locks on the market which can be used. You may also wish to cut dowels to fit the windows. However, do not rely on dowels as the only means of security.

DOCK SECURITY

Many boat thieves are successful because they look as if they belong in the area. Become acquainted with your dock neighbors and harbormaster. Help start a "dock watch" at your marina or berthing area. A tactful offer to assist a stranger in finding a person or a boat may alert thieves that you are looking out for each other.

If you plan to leave your boat for any length of time, close and lock all hatches and close window draperies. If you don't have draperies on your windows stow things out of sight, preferably in a locked area. Don't leave portable televisions, radios, and alcoholic beverages in plain view. Needless to say, take your keys with you whenever you leave your vessel.