



Royal Bahamas Police Force

Working together for a safe Bahamas

Boat and Yacht Theft Prevention

Marine theft is usually done by relatively unskilled amateurs who strike where they find an easy opportunity. It is worth counteracting boat and theft crimes by being security conscious and by practicing some straightforward preventive measures. Below is a list of simple precautions you can take to help prevent your boat or yacht from being stolen.

The most effective deterrent is to not leave valuables aboard.

- Taking out marine electronics, fishing tackle, and equipment from vessels would eliminate the majority of thefts that occur from harbors and marinas
- **Do not leave your key in the ignition when the boat is not in use**, and do not leave your key on the boat when it is unattended
- Mark all equipment and main items onboard with your postcode, name or the boat's name/sail number.
- These identification numbers will assist the police in tracing stolen merchandise back to the owner.
- Keep an updated inventory of equipment, including motors and trailers, and record serial numbers.
- In the event of any type of loss, this information will prove invaluable in making a prompt, accurate report for the police and insurance personnel.
- Small outboard motors should be removed from boats that will be left unattended for an extended period of time. If it is impossible to remove the motor, add an outboard motor lock to make it more secure.
- Inevitably, there will always be some equipment that must be left. Secure these items in lockable storage areas.
- Exterior hatch locks: fastened with a quality padlock these locks improve security.
- For sliding windows: place a length of doweling in the track to prevent the window from being forced open.
- Care should be taken to select locks and hinges that are designed for marine use.
- Consider an alarm system for larger boats.
- **Install an anti-theft alarm and/or tracking system on your boat.** Your local marine supplier should be able to recommend a quality model.
- Get to know the other owners at your marina or sailing club and look out for one another. If you see any suspicious activity - report it.
- If you must leave your boat for an extended period of time, ask a friend to check on it regularly
- Keep a list of your Hull Identification Number (HIN) or other unique identifiers, and records of the serial numbers of outboard engines and other equipment.
- Keep a folder of purchase receipts as proof of ownership of items and their value.
- Photograph your boat from a number of angles.

Report the theft to the police and to your insurers as soon as possible. Your quick action may result in a speedy recovery.

Police Emergency
911

National Crime Prevention Office
302-8430 / 1
www.royalbahamaspolice.org

"To make The Bahamas a safer place to live, work, visit and play."

Crime Stoppers
328-TIPS (8477)
Family Islands
(242) 300-8476