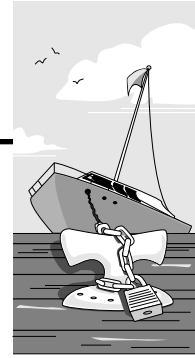


# Marine Security

*Crime and Violence Prevention Center • California Attorney General's Office*



Marine theft is on the rise. But there are many things you can do to discourage waterway pirates. The following tips can help guard your boat and gear from theft.

## Locks

Strength and durability are keys to security.

- Install inside hinges and deadbolt locks on all doors.
- Secure ports and windows with inside auxiliary locks.
- Attach inverted strong hasps and padlocks to all hatches.

## Operational I.D.

- Inscribe all valuables, (including electronic equipment, your engine, sails, radios, binoculars, and other loose gear) with your name, your home port, your California driver's license number (preceded by the letters "CA"), and your hull identification number.
- Keep an inventory list (ashore) of all your gear. Include name, model, serial number, manufacturer and description.

## Alarms

- Consider installing an alarm system to ward off "would be" pirates. There are many "do-it-yourself" models on the market that are easy to install or, you can have a professional installation.

REMEMBER— an alarm is only good if you set it every time you leave your boat.

## Additional tips

- Never leave your keys aboard— even in a "hidden place."
- Always moor your boat to something secure with a chain or cable that can not be lifted over or torn loose from the piling or mooring.
- Run the chain or cable around under a thwart or around a stanchion.
- Use one-way bolts, lock nuts, and backup plates on your eye bolts.
- Consider leaving your engine out of commission when you are away: remove the rotor; install a hidden cut-off switch; drain the fuel; remove a spark plug or the propeller.
- Secure outboard motors with special transom bolts or clamping screw locks.

## **Dock watch**

A good neighbor is one of the best crime prevention tools around.

- Get to know the people and boat owners where you dock, and look out for one another.
- Insist on good lighting at your marina.
- Let each other know if anyone will be using your boat when you are not present.
- If you spot anything suspicious on any boat, call the police.

## **If you are a victim . . .**

- Call your local law enforcement agency. They can respond quickly and will alert other units—including the Coast Guard— as needed.
- Give the officer a complete description of what was stolen. (The hull identification number of your boat, year, model, CF registration number, etc.)

## **Remember . . .**

Law enforcement officials claim that boat owners' apathy and ignorance of crime prevention techniques are prime causes of increased marine theft. As captain of your craft, take command—secure your boat; mark your gear; take the watch and be on the alert for the waterway pirates.

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