



## **Boat and marina security**

It's important to take the security of your boat as seriously as you would that of your home. Thieves are attracted to all kinds of things - they could take your outboard motor, your life raft or your expensive marine equipment. They'll also steal anything else that takes their fancy - your radio, tools, personal items and even the boat itself.

Make your boat secure and give yourself peace of mind with this advice.

### **Before you go ashore**

Once you've tied up alongside, do a quick security check before going ashore to ensure your boat isn't an easy target for thieves:

- Never leave anything on display in the cockpit or on deck
- Lock anything valuable out of sight in a strong locker secured by a strong padlock. Your insurance company may not pay out if you don't
- Lock up emergency money away from other valuables
- Keep your curtains closed so that no-one can look in
- Keep unused ropes, fenders and other items out of sight in your cockpit lockers and cupboards - and always lock them
- Make sure your life raft and outboard motor are secure, as these are valuable and attractive to boat thieves
- Take your boat and personal papers with you - don't leave them on board
- Don't leave your home address on show

When you go ashore from a dinghy, remove your oars or paddles, rowlocks or pump, and secure the dinghy with a strong chain and padlock.

### **Boat security**

Whenever you're on your boat, use the following tips to develop good marine security habits.

- Don't leave your engine key in the ignition when you're stationary - always have it with you
- Keep your boat keys separate from your engine keys
- Always keep your boat locked when no-one is on board, even if you're only going ashore for a short time
- Use strong padlocks or rimlocks on all your hatches, entry points and cockpit lockers
- Mark everything you buy for your boat with your home postcode

### **Improve your security**

Regularly check and improve the security on your boat. It's a good idea to fit an alarm and use a visible sticker to say that one is fitted. Make sure your cockpit lockers can be properly locked, and check that your main hatch and fore-hatch are strong. Consider having a strongbox down below. If you don't think something is secure, get it fixed, don't put it off.

Make a list of all the serial numbers on valuables like your radio, navigation equipment or outboard motor. Keep it up-to-date and store a copy at home and on your boat. This can help you, the police and your insurance company if you have a break-in.

### **If you have a break-in**

If you're the victim of boat theft, report it to police immediately by calling 101, or 999 if the crime is in progress or life is at risk. Tell the harbour master or boatyard manager what has happened straight away too. Check your boat is still seaworthy – if you suspect it isn't, don't risk going on board and make arrangements to secure it. If you can, check whether neighbouring boats have been broken into as well.

### **Be a good neighbour**

Getting to know other boat owners in your marina means you can work together to keep the marina secure. Be a good neighbour by:

- Keeping an eye on other boats, as well as your own
- Reporting any strangers at the marina to the harbour master or yard master
- Don't give your marina access card or key to other people
- Never telling anyone else the access code to the marina
- Don't let strangers into the marina, however genuine they may seem
- Keeping the marina gate closed at all times

### **Buy the best**

When choosing security measures, make sure they meet current standards by visiting [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) or [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com) before you buy.

**To speak to our crime prevention team about protecting your property email [crimeprevention@northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:crimeprevention@northants.pnn.police.uk)**