

Marine Crime Prevention Advice.

REMOVE IT, LOCK IT AND MARK IT

There is only one way to guarantee that your property will not be stolen from your boat and that is to **TAKE IT HOME**.

We understand that this is not always possible but try to look at your boat as you leave it and consider how it looks to a potential thief. Ensure attractive items you are leaving are out of sight or locked away.

Take a moment to consider how you would get into your boat if you were locked out. This is probably the way the thief will try, so improve your security with effective locks which will last in the marine environment.

Look at the equipment stored on your boat such as outboard motors and dinghies and use appropriate security devices to secure them.

There are many different types of alarm, far too many to cover here. Speak to other club members and boat users; discuss the pros and cons, what do you want it to do? If your system notifies you someone is on board your boat will you be in a position to respond to it?

Many items are already marked with some sort of serial number, hull identification numbers on dinghies, engine numbers on outboards, serial numbers on electronics and life rafts; make sure that you record these details somewhere that you can find them again if we need them.

We strongly recommend additional means of marking. We acknowledge that this will not stop your things being stolen but it increases the chances of us being able to return them to you. The important thing is to use a system which will allow the finder to identify you, such as a house or club post code or phone number but they must be current so remember to update them. Ensure that the marks are clearly visible and difficult to remove. Support this by marking them out of sight, so that there is still something to check if the obvious marks are removed. Liquid marking systems are another effective means of marking property which could be considered.

Take photographs of your property, as they say a 'picture is worth a thousand words'

There is also some evidence to support the view that if property is clearly marked it is a less attractive item to sell. If the thief can't sell it – why steal it?

The other benefit to recording serial numbers and marking your items is the improved chances we have of prosecuting offenders. A number of recent prosecutions have rested on our ability to prove that the property is stolen. There is nothing more frustrating than having to return an outboard to someone because we can't prove it was the stolen one from your boat.

The culture of buying second hand goods is well established but please don't assume that the property is legitimate. Check out as much as you can about the property and the seller.

IF THE DEAL SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE IT USUALLY IS!