

An Garda Síochána

Crime Prevention Information Sheet



Boat Security Boats & Equipment



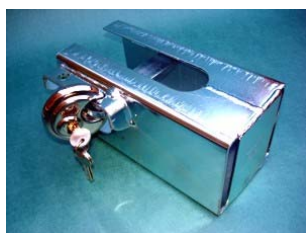
Introduction

Boats and boating equipment are at greater risk of being stolen because they are easily movable. Regularly each year boats, boat trailers, outboard motors, electronic and safety equipment are stolen, e.g. Sat-Nav, VHF radio and binoculars. A lot of boat crime is opportunistic by nature.

There are several measures that can be taken to provide adequate security precautions to protect your valuable property and reduce the risk of theft. Although boat insurance is essential, it is not a substitute for improved security.

Locking

- Use a quality padlock on exterior boat hatches. A variety of small locks and clasps are available to secure all window types. Sliding windows can be secured by placing a length of timber in the track to prevent the window being forced open.
- Use a high quality security hitch lock on the boat trailer.
- Use a high quality chain and lock to secure the trailer to a fixed object.
- Consider using a secure wheel clamp or removing a boat trailer wheel when parked up.



Storage

- If possible store your boat in a locked garage or secure boat storage facility.
- If your boat is kept in the water, use a marina with full time security and good lighting.
- Ensure CCTV and exterior lights in the marina are

working properly and all security recording is of good quality.

- Take the outboard engine away and store in a safe place when not in use.
- Plastic covers are available to replace the cowling cover when the boat is not in use.
- If unknown people arrive in a marina, talk to them to establish their Bona Fides.

Mooring/Parking

Whilst moored ensure that you do not leave the keys in the ignition or leave engine idling unattended. Boat theft is much easier if a thief can hitch up to your boat and trailer and drive away.

In public

- Close cabin curtains before leaving your boat moored or parked, preventing passers-by from viewing cabin contents or layout.
- Remove all equipment from your boat and keep it locked and out of sight elsewhere.
- Make sure your boat is checked regularly. If the boat is left for long periods of time, ensure that someone else is able to check on your boat.
- Secure outboard motors to immovable objects around the marina using quality locks and chains.

At home

- Where possible reverse a boat with an outboard engine close to a wall or building to make it more difficult to lift the engine off.
- Keep the boat and trailer out of sight of the road and the engine out of public view.
- Ensure the trailer hitch is not easily accessible.
- Park another vehicle or other large object in front of the trailer to obstruct its removal.
- Consider installing ground or wall anchors for this purpose.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS OR OTHER CRIME PREVENTION ISSUES,
PLEASE CONTACT
your local GARDÁ CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER
or
visit the Garda website at www.garda.ie**

Alarms/Boat Tracking/Security Devices

- Security devices installed on boats should be resistant to water, salt and humidity. Alarms and immobilisers should be regarded as enhancements to good physical security/locking systems.
- Consider installing an alarm system designed for boats, include a smoke detector if the boat has an enclosed cabin.
- Put 'alarm stickers' on your boat e.g. '**Alarm Installed – Do Not Tamper**'.
- Consider the use of a GPS tracking device for your outboard engine that meets your requirements and budget. The use of satellite tracking systems has proved very effective in recovering stolen vehicles.
- Consider installing one or more kill switches in concealed locations.

Photograph and Record

- Take digital colour photographs of your outboard motor and boat from various angles, show markings, scratches etc.
- Make a record of your boat and equipment including make, model and serial number. Serial numbers may be in different locations for different engines.
- Record the chassis number of your trailer. Keep a master copy of this record at home and a copy on board as a checklist.
- E-mail photographs and checklist to your web mail address always ensuring an uploaded version is available.
- Permanently mark or engrave your boat, outboard engine and equipment with the hull identification number or other unique number. Note all damage, scratches, dents etc.

Selling your boat

You should be cautious when selling your boat. Thieves, posing as buyers, have been known to use false identities and documentation. With private sales you should consider the following:

- Check the identity of the buyer - look for photo id.
- Verify the address – look for utility bills etc.
- If the buyer is paying by cheque, draft or money order, verify that it is valid and that sufficient funds are available.
- Do not hand over the boat or ownership documents until the cheque/draft/money order has cleared – you can always arrange to deliver it yourself after a given period.

Buying a boat

Caveat Emptor, buyer beware. That bargain may well have been stolen. Consider the following advice when buying a boat or equipment:

- Always buy from a reputable boat dealer.
- Never agree to arrangements to buy second hand boats or equipment in car parks or other public areas. If you are meeting at a house, check that it is the seller's house.
- Ask the seller whether the boat has any extra security features e.g. alarm, tracking device,

safe, hitch lock or wheel clamp.

Always check for the following:

- Proof of seller's identity and address.
- That the trailer chassis number or other identification numbers have not been removed or altered.
- That all keys are available and correct.
- The number plate on the trailer is the same as the car towing the trailer.

In general, be cautious.

The advice contained in this information sheet is not intended to be exhaustive or absolute.

Nothing contained in this publication should be interpreted as mandatory, obligatory or designed to conflict with any statutory regulations.

Useful Contacts and Links

**The Garda National Crime Prevention Unit,
Garda H.Q., Harcourt Square, Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 6663362, Fax: (01) 6663314**

**The Garda Water Unit,
Athlone Garda Station, Co. Westmeath.
Tel: (090) 6435120
Santry Garda Station, Co. Dublin
Tel: (01) 6664100**

**An Garda Síochána
www.garda.ie**

**Irish Water Safety
Email: info@iws.ie**

**The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland
www.iwai.ie**

**Maritime Safety
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 6783419
Email: maritimesafetypolicydivision@dttas.ie**