

Dock Security

Many boat thieves are successful because they look like they belong in the area. Become familiar with your dock neighbors. Help start a watch. A tactful offer to assist a stranger in finding a person or a boat may alert thieves that you are looking out for each other's property.

1. Never leave keys aboard.
 2. Lockable gates can be installed to deter public access.
 3. Secure items: seats, batteries, and locked gas tanks.
- ❖ Most thefts from docks are accessed from land and vehicle and not by boat.
 - ❖ Call (AEP) **1-800-956-4237** for large or hazardous material removal from Smith Mountain Lake.

Report It

If your boat, trailer, dock or gear is missing, report it immediately to:

- ✓ The Sheriff's Office/DGIF Conservation Police (Game Wardens).
- ✓ Your insurance company.
- ✓ The owner of the community dock and neighboring boaters.

Buying a Boat

- Be careful when buying a boat, it could be stolen.
- Be certain that the boat's description on the title matches the boat. (VA requires boats to be registered)
- Check the year, make, length, hull identification number, model and serial number.
- Be sure numbers have not been removed from the outboard motor.
- Be suspicious of a fresh paint job on a late model vessel.
- Deal with reputable marine dealers, if the price seems too good to be true, there is a good chance that it is stolen.
- Don't provide a market for stolen property.



Theft Prevention on the Water

70 East Court Street Suite 101
Rocky Mount, VA 24151
Phone: 540-483-3013
Fax: 540-483-3023

www.franklincountyva.gov/frco-sheriffs-office



Theft Prevention around "Land between the Lakes"

Info from www.dgif.virginia.gov

Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention Specialist Officer
Deputy S. W. Mills

Theft Prevention

Theft on our water ways is increasing and it usually is done by relatively unskilled, young amateurs who strike where they find an easy opportunity. Keep in mind these three factors:

TIME NOISE VISIBILITY

Try to think like a criminal. What takes less time to steal, makes no noise when I remove it and it sitting right out in front of me?

Equipment & Fishing Tackle

Remove all valuables aboard your boat. Most thefts occur because boat owners simply fail to remove items.

Equipment Identification

Mark all equipment: including rods, reels, and tackle boxes. Look into alternative labeling: DataDot.com Attach your 911 Address to the dock at the water.

Photograph It

Take pictures and video the interior and exterior of your vessel. Show all installed equipment and additional gear. Store the SD clip in a safe place, not on the boat.

Record It

Make a complete inventory of your equipment: boat, motors and trailer. Record the serial numbers. Remember that most marine electronics, fish locators, depth finders, GPS devices, VHF radios, stereo systems, battery chargers and expensive reels have serial numbers.

Without a serial number, your stolen item cannot be entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

Secure Dock Lockers

Dock lockers are very effective for storage of equipment, if they are locked. Lightweight hasps and locks are easily broken or cut. The door on dock lockers needs to be secured with an angle iron cross bar or heavy-duty hasps and specially shielded locks.

Outboard Motors

Remove small outboard motors from boats that will be left unattended for an extended period of time. An alternative to removing these motors would be to add an outboard motor lock, which can make them somewhat more secure. While these devices can be pried off, the time and noise involved will make it more trouble than it is worth for many thieves.

Boat Propellers

Premium stainless steel boat props are expensive items that are popular targets for thieves. After-market prop locks are available and are a worthwhile investment.

Personal Watercraft

Personal watercraft have become popular targets of boat thieves. They are relatively easy to transport or tow from a dock and are becoming the most popular boats for resale. Owners of these boats should use heavy vinyl-coated cable or log chains and shielded locks to secure them to a support post or other stationary fixture on the dock. Always remove the kill switch when left unattended.

Trailers for Boats

Trailerable boats are the most frequent targets of theft. Stealing a boat is much easier if a thief can hitch up to your boat and trailer and drive away. These tips may help: 1.) If possible, store the boat and trailer in a locked garage, secured boat-storage facility or mini-storage stall. 2.) If the boat is stored at home, put it in the back or side yard

out of sight. 3.) Store it with the trailer tongue not easily accessible. 4.) If storing a boat in an open driveway, carport, or open side lot, park another vehicle or other large object in front of the trailer. 5.) An effective, preventive measure for outside storage is to remove one trailer wheel. 6.) Store the spare tire in an automobile, truck, or secure it to the trailer with a chain and lock. 7.) Secure the boat and trailer to a secure object with a good quality chain and lock. 8.) Purchase a good quality trailer hitch lock and use it - even if stored inside.

Vessel Security

Secure all items only in lockable storage areas. Not all boat manufacturer locks are adequate to deter thieves. Look for special after-market security devices, such as Loc-R-Bar for bass boats, which can be used to better secure boat storage compartments.

Remember: **out of sight - out of mind.**



There are several things that can be done to reduce the risk of vessel theft in these types of boats.

Locksmiths and hardware dealers also carry a variety of special, small locks and fasteners, which can be used to increase the security.

There are many systems that can be installed on boats. Care should be taken to select one designed for marine use - one that is resistant to water, salt, and humidity and has a reset function.