



Boat and Trailer Tracking and Anti-Theft

trailer if it walks An Extended Guide · No. 2059

— An Extended Guide · No. 2059 —

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

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1. The Whole Idea in One Glance If you read only this page, your rig will be far harder to steal. Boat and trailer security works in three layers. Locks make your rig hard to hitch and tow, so a thief moves on to an easier target. A hidden GPS tracker lets you find it if it is taken. And a Bluetooth tag is a cheap backstop. A couple of good locks and one tracker cover almost everyone. A coupler lock stops a thief from hitching to your trailer A wheel or boot lock stops them from towing it at all A hidden GPS tracker shows you where it goes, for a small monthly fee A Bluetooth tag like an AirTag is a cheap extra, with real limits Good locks that are visible are often enough to send a thief elsewhere Most trailer theft is quick and opportunistic. A thief wants the easy grab, so a rig that clearly takes time and tools to steal usually gets skipped for the one next to it that does not. THE PROBLEM 2. How Boats and Trailers Walk Away A trailer is built to be towed, which is exactly what makes it easy to steal. A thief backs up to your coupler, drops it on their ball, and drives off, often in under a minute and without a tool. There is no engine to hotwire and no door to jimmy. Understanding how simple the grab is makes it clear why a lock matters so much. A thief only needs to hitch up and drive away No engine to start, no lock to pick on the trailer itself It can happen in under a minute in a parking lot An unlocked coupler is an open invitation The whole goal of trailer security is to add time and trouble. Anything that makes the grab take longer than a minute, in plain view, is working in your favor.

THREE LAYERS**5. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

3. Layers: Deter, Track, Recover Good security is not one gadget; it is a few simple layers that each do a job. The first layer deters, making your rig hard to take. The second tracks, so you know where it is if it goes. The third helps you recover it, with records and a plan. You do not need all of everything — a lock and a tracker cover most people well. Deter: locks that make hitching and towing a chore Track: a GPS tracker that shows you where it is Recover: records, photos, and a plan if it is taken Start with a lock and a tracker; add more only if you want Think of it like your house: a lock on the door deters, and an alarm or camera helps if someone gets past it. A boat and trailer deserve the same simple layers. BE HONEST 4. An Honest Look at the Risk Not every rig needs every layer. A trailer kept in a locked garage faces little risk, while one parked on the street or stored in an open lot faces more. Think honestly about where yours sits and for how long. That tells you how much security is worth the money, so you spend on what fits your real situation. A locked garage faces little risk; the street faces more Long storage in an open lot is where trackers earn their keep Match the layers to where your rig actually sits Do not overspend on a rig that is always locked away safe My guide on watching your camper while it is stored covers the storage-lot situation in depth. For a boat and trailer in the same spot, much of that advice applies too.

COUPLER LOCKS**6. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

5. Coupler Locks A coupler lock is the first and most important lock for a trailer. It fits over the coupler — the cup at the front that drops onto the tow ball — and keeps anyone from hitching to it. A good one in plain sight tells a thief at a glance that this trailer is not an easy grab. Fits over the coupler so no one can hitch to it A visible lock deters a thief before they even try Choose a sturdy, well-reviewed one that fits your coupler Prices range from modest to moderate; confirm the current price The coupler lock is the single best value in trailer security. It is cheap, it is quick to put on, and it blocks the one move every trailer thief relies on. HITCH LOCKS 6. Hitch and Hitch-Pin Locks When the trailer is already hitched to your truck, a hitch pin lock keeps someone from pulling the pin and taking the trailer, or taking the whole hitch. It is a simple locking pin that replaces the plain one. It is most useful for a trailer that stays connected to the tow vehicle for a while. A locking pin replaces the plain hitch pin Keeps someone from unpinning a hitched trailer Also protects a costly hitch or bike rack from theft Most useful when the trailer stays hitched up If you leave the trailer hitched to the truck at a motel overnight on a trip, a hitch pin lock and a coupler lock together make it a very poor target. WHEEL LOCKS 7. Wheel and Boot Locks A wheel lock, sometimes called a boot, clamps onto a trailer wheel so it cannot roll. It is the same idea as the boot a city puts on a parked car. Big and bright, it is a powerful visual deterrent and a real physical barrier, best for a trailer sitting in storage for a while.

BOAT TO TRAILER**7. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

Clamps a wheel so the trailer cannot be towed Big and bright, it deters at a glance Best for longer-term parking and storage Takes a minute to put on, which is time well spent A coupler lock and a wheel lock together are a strong pair. One blocks hitching, the other blocks rolling, so a thief needs real time and tools to beat both. 8. Locking the Boat to the Trailer It is not only the trailer that walks off — a boat can be lifted from its trailer, too, especially a smaller one. Tie-down locks and locking winch straps keep the boat fastened to the trailer so the pair cannot be separated quickly. This matters most for lighter boats that two people could lift. Locking tie-downs keep the boat fastened to the trailer A locking winch strap secures the bow Matters most for lighter boats that can be lifted Keeps the boat and trailer together as one hard-to-take unit For a kayak or small boat on a trailer or roof rack, a simple cable lock through the hull handles keeps an easy grab from happening while you step away. THE MOTOR 9. Securing the Motor An outboard motor is valuable and can be unbolted and carried off on its own. A motor lock covers the clamp screws or transom bolts so the engine cannot be quickly removed. On a boat left at a dock or in storage, protecting the motor is as important as protecting the trailer. A motor lock covers the clamps or bolts that hold it on An outboard is valuable and can be taken by itself Matters most at a dock or in open storage Pair it with the other locks for full coverage

CHAINS**8. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

Thieves sometimes take just the motor, the electronics, or the trailer rather than the whole rig. Spreading a few simple locks across each valuable piece covers all the bases. 10.

Chains and Padlocks A heavy chain and a good padlock can anchor a trailer to a fixed post, a ground anchor, or another heavy object so it cannot simply be towed. It is a sturdy, low-tech layer for a trailer that sits in one place. The chain only helps if both it and the lock are strong and the anchor point does not move. A heavy chain anchors the trailer to a fixed point Use a hardened padlock a bolt cutter cannot beat easily The anchor point must be solid and immovable A visible chain adds one more reason to skip your rig **WATCH OUT** A cheap chain or a flimsy padlock gives a false sense of safety. If you use a chain, make both the chain and the lock genuinely heavy-duty, or skip it for a proper wheel lock instead.

WHERE TO PARK 11. Where You Park Matters Where you leave the rig is a free and powerful layer. A well-lit spot, a fenced lot, a camera in view, or simply parking so the trailer is boxed in all make theft harder. A thief wants quiet, dark, and quick. Taking those away does a lot of the work before any lock. Well-lit, visible spots deter quiet theft A fenced or gated storage lot adds a real barrier Box the trailer in with a vehicle so it cannot roll out Park the tongue toward a wall to block hitching At home, parking the truck in front of the trailer so it cannot be pulled straight out is a free, simple deterrent that works every single night.

GPS TRACKERS**9. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

12. GPS Trackers Explained A GPS tracker is a small device you hide on the boat or trailer that reports its location to an app on your phone. If the rig is ever moved or stolen, you can see where it is on a map in real time. This is the one piece that turns a loss into a recovery, which is why it is worth the small monthly cost for many owners. A hidden device reports the rig's location to your phone See where it is on a map if it is ever moved Turns a theft into a real chance of recovery Needs a cell signal and a small monthly subscription A tracker does not stop a theft; it helps you get the rig back after one. Paired with locks that deter, it covers both halves of the problem. WIRED OR BATTERY 13. Hardwired vs Battery Trackers GPS trackers come in two styles. A hardwired one connects to the boat or trailer's power so it never needs charging, but it takes a bit of installation. A battery one you simply hide and recharge now and then, with no wiring at all. Each suits a different owner. Hardwired: always powered, no charging, needs installing Battery: easy to hide, no wiring, recharge now and then Hardwired suits a boat with a battery already aboard Battery suits a bare trailer or someone avoiding wiring If your boat has a battery, a hardwired tracker that sips from it is set-and-forget. For a plain utility or boat trailer with no power, a long-life battery tracker is the simpler path.

THE SUBSCRIPTION

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14. The Monthly Subscription A GPS tracker needs a small monthly subscription, because it uses a cell signal to send its location, just like a phone does. The fee is usually modest, in the range of a few dollars to around fifteen a month depending on the service and how often it reports. Confirm the current price and terms before you buy the device. The tracker uses a cell signal, so it needs a plan Fees commonly run from a few dollars to around fifteen a month More frequent reporting usually costs a bit more Confirm the current price and terms before buying WATCH OUT Factor the monthly fee into your decision, not just the price of the device. A tracker with no active subscription is just a box; the plan is what makes it work. SETUP 15. Setting Up a Tracker App Setting up a tracker is much like setting up any app. You download the maker's app, create an account, activate the device and its plan, and pair it to your phone. From then on, opening the app shows you the rig on a map. It is a one-time setup of fifteen minutes or so.

- 1 Download the tracker maker's app and create an account
- 2 Activate the device and its subscription plan
- 3 Pair the tracker to your account following the app
- 4 Hide the device on the rig and confirm it shows on the map If the setup or the account steps feel fiddly, this is exactly the kind of thing I can do with you over a screen-share in a few minutes so it is done right the first time.

GEOFENCE

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16. Geofence Alerts Most tracker apps let you set a geofence, which is an invisible boundary around where the rig normally sits. If the boat or trailer crosses that line, the app sends your phone an alert at once. That early warning can mean you catch a theft in progress rather than discovering it hours later. A geofence is an invisible boundary around your rig's home. Cross it, and the app alerts your phone right away. Set it around your driveway, storage lot, or the marina. Early warning gives you and the police a head start. The geofence alert is the feature that turns a tracker from a recovery tool into an early-warning one. It is worth taking the minute to set it up for each place you park.

HIDING IT 17. Hiding the Tracker A tracker only helps if a thief does not find and toss it. Tuck it somewhere out of sight and not obvious — inside a console, under a seat, in a compartment, or tucked into the trailer frame. The goal is a spot a thief would not think to check in a hurry, while still letting the device reach a signal. Hide it out of sight, not where a hand lands first. Inside a console, under a seat, or in the trailer frame. Avoid wrapping it in metal, which can block the signal. Pick a spot you can still reach to recharge a battery model. A second, decoy tracker left somewhere obvious can satisfy a thief who goes looking, while the real one stays hidden. That is an extra step, not a must, but it is clever.

BATTERY LIFE**12. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

18. Battery Life on a Tracker A battery-powered tracker trades convenience for the need to recharge it. How long it lasts depends on how often it reports its position — report every few seconds and it drains in days, report a few times a day and it can run for weeks or months. For a stored rig, a slow reporting rate stretches the battery a long way. Frequent reporting drains the battery faster A slower report rate can run for weeks or months For storage, a slow rate saves charging trips A hardwired tracker sidesteps charging entirely Set a reminder to check and recharge a battery tracker on a schedule. A dead tracker you forgot about is no help the night you actually need it. BLUETOOTH TAGS 19. AirTags and SmartTags A Bluetooth tag, like an Apple AirTag or a Samsung SmartTag, is a cheap coin-sized tracker with no monthly fee. It does not use a cell signal of its own. Instead, it quietly borrows the signal of other people's phones that pass nearby to report roughly where it is. That makes it a handy, low-cost extra, with one real limit. A coin-sized tag with no monthly subscription Works with your phone's find-my network for free Borrows passing phones to report its rough location A cheap backstop, not a full replacement for a GPS tracker An AirTag works best in the Apple world and a SmartTag in the Samsung world. Pick the one that matches the phones in your family for the best chance of a hit.

HOW TAGS WORK

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20. How Bluetooth Tags Find Things A Bluetooth tag has a tiny signal that reaches only a short distance, about the length of a few rooms. It cannot call home on its own. When any phone on the same find-my network passes within range, that phone anonymously reports the tag's location to you. In a crowded place, that happens often; in an empty one, rarely. The tag's own signal reaches only a short distance It needs a passing phone to report its location Crowded places give frequent location updates Empty places may give none for a long time Think of a Bluetooth tag as a message in a bottle that only washes ashore when someone walks by. The more foot traffic around it, the better it works. RURAL MARINAS

21. The Rural Marina Problem Here is the honest limit of a Bluetooth tag for a boater. It depends on other phones passing nearby, and a rural marina, a storage lot, or a quiet country road has very few. A stolen rig towed down empty back roads may not pass a single phone for a long while, so the tag goes silent exactly when you need it. A tag needs nearby phones, which rural spots lack A quiet marina or storage lot gives few updates A rig towed on empty roads may go unseen for a long time This is why a tag is a backstop, not the main tool WATCH OUT Do not rely on a Bluetooth tag alone for a boat kept in the country. Where phones are scarce, a proper GPS tracker that calls home on its own is the dependable choice.

TAG AS BACKUP

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22. Using a Tag as a Backstop For all its limits, a Bluetooth tag is cheap, needs no monthly fee, and may be the thing that finds your rig if a thief misses it and tows it into town. Tucked away as a quiet backup to your GPS tracker, it costs little and can only help. Just know its place in the plan. Cheap and no monthly fee, so it costs little to add May catch a rig towed into a town full of phones A fine quiet backup to a real GPS tracker Hide it separately so a thief does not find both A tag also quietly helps with everyday things, like finding where you parked the trailer in a big lot. It earns its keep even on the days nothing is stolen.

COMBINING 23. Combining a Tracker and a Tag The strongest setup pairs a GPS tracker with a Bluetooth tag, hidden in two different spots. The GPS tracker is your reliable, always-reporting main line. The tag is a cheap second chance in case the tracker is found or fails. Two hidden devices in two places are much harder for a thief to clear out. GPS tracker as the reliable main line Bluetooth tag as a cheap second chance Hide them in two separate spots Two devices are far harder to find and remove A thief who finds one hidden device often assumes it was the only one. A second tracker in a different spot is why many stolen rigs are recovered after the obvious one is tossed.

ALARMS**15. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

24. Alarms and Motion Sensors A simple alarm or motion sensor adds a layer of noise and warning. Some trailers can take a tilt or motion alarm that sounds if the rig is lifted or moved, and some tracker apps include a motion alert to your phone. Noise draws attention, which is the last thing a quiet thief wants. A motion or tilt alarm sounds if the rig is moved. Noise draws attention and scares off a quiet thief. Some trackers send a motion alert to your phone. A loud deterrent pairs well with the silent tracker. A phone alert plus an audible alarm is a nice combination: the alarm may stop the theft on the spot, and the alert tells you even if you are not there to hear it.

CAMERAS

25. Cameras Watching the Boat A camera pointed at where the rig is parked both deters theft and captures evidence if it happens. At home, a doorbell or yard camera covering the driveway does the job. In storage, a battery or solar camera on the rig can alert your phone to motion. A visible camera alone makes a thief think twice. A camera on the driveway deters and records. A battery or solar camera suits a storage lot. Motion alerts can reach your phone. A visible camera is a deterrent by itself. My camper security guide and my dash cam guide cover cameras in detail. Much of the home and storage-lot camera advice applies to a boat and trailer in the same spot.

MARK IT**16. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

26. Marking and Recording Serial Numbers Recovery is far easier when you can prove a rig is yours. Write down the hull identification number on the boat, the trailer's VIN, and the serial numbers on the motor and electronics. Marking your own driver's license number in a hidden spot can also help police tie a recovered item back to you.

- 1** Record the boat's hull identification number
 - 2** Record the trailer's VIN and the motor's serial number
 - 3** Note serial numbers on your electronics too
 - 4** Keep the list somewhere safe, not only in the boat. Police recover stolen rigs they cannot return because no one can prove ownership. A simple list of numbers, kept at home, is what lets them hand yours back to you.
- RECORDS**
27. Photos and Records for Recovery A few clear photos of the boat, trailer, and motor, including any unique marks or scratches, make a huge difference in a recovery. Store them with your list of serial

numbers where you can reach them if the rig is gone. When you can show police exactly what was taken and that it is yours, everything moves faster. Photograph the boat, trailer, and motor from several angles. Capture any unique marks, scratches, or add-ons. Store the photos with your serial-number list. Keep a copy in the cloud so you can reach it anywhere. My family photo and backup guides show how to keep records safe in the cloud. A folder with your rig's photos and numbers is five minutes that could save you a great deal.

INSURANCE

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28. Insurance and What It Wants Check whether your boat and trailer are covered against theft, and by which policy. Sometimes the boat is on one policy and the trailer on another, or on the auto policy. Knowing what is covered, and what the insurer will want if you file a claim, saves confusion at a bad moment. Your records and serial numbers are exactly what they ask for. Confirm the boat and trailer are both covered for theft. They may be on separate policies — check each. Know what the insurer needs to process a claim. Your photos and serial numbers are what they will ask for. Some insurers offer a small discount for a GPS tracker or approved locks. It is worth a quick call to ask, since the savings can offset the cost over time. PAPERS 29. Registration and Title Papers Keep your registration, title, and proof of ownership organized and at home, not left in the boat where a thief would get them too. If the rig is stolen, you will need these papers for the police report and the insurance claim. A simple folder, and a photo of each document on your phone, covers you. Keep title and registration papers at home, not in the boat. You will need them for a police report and claim. A photo of each document on your phone is a good backup. Store them with your serial-number list and photos. WATCH OUT Leaving ownership papers in the glove box of the boat hands a thief everything they need to sell it. Keep the papers where the rig is not.

THE RAMP**18. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

30. At the Launch Ramp The launch ramp is a spot where many owners drop their guard, leaving the empty trailer parked while they are out on the water. A coupler lock on that empty trailer takes a few seconds and keeps it there until you return. The trailer sitting alone for hours is a tempting, easy target without one. Lock the empty trailer's coupler while you are on the water It sits alone for hours — an easy grab unlabeled A quick coupler lock keeps it there until you return Note where you parked so you find it easily after Keep the coupler lock in the truck so putting it on the parked trailer becomes part of launching. Thirty seconds at the ramp protects the trailer all day. THE MARINA 31. At the Marina or Dock A boat kept at a dock or in a marina faces different risks: the motor, the electronics, and loose gear are the usual targets rather than the whole rig. A motor lock, a locked storage compartment, and taking valuable electronics home between trips all help. A GPS tracker aboard adds a line on the boat itself. Protect the motor and electronics, the usual dock targets Lock storage compartments and take valuables home A GPS tracker covers the boat itself Get to know the marina staff and their security Removable electronics like a fish finder are a common grab at a dock. Taking the screen home, or locking it in a compartment, removes the easy temptation.

AT HOME

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32. At Home or the Storage Lot Where the rig sits most of the time deserves the most thought. At home, park to block it in, add a coupler and wheel lock, and keep a camera on the driveway. In a storage lot, a tracker and good locks matter more, since the rig sits unwatched for long stretches among others. At home: block it in, lock it, and keep a camera on it In storage: a tracker plus good locks for the long sit A lit, fenced, gated lot adds real protection Check on a stored rig now and then if you can My camper security guide covers the stored-rig situation most fully, including cameras and freeze sensors. A boat and trailer in a storage lot benefit from the same approach. TRAVELING 33. In an Unfamiliar Place On a trip, the rig sits in strange motels, rest stops, and lots overnight, which is a higher-risk time. Lock the coupler and hitch every stop, park where the trailer is boxed in and visible, and make sure your tracker is live. A little extra care away from home goes a long way. Lock the coupler and hitch at every overnight stop Park where the trailer is boxed in and well lit Confirm your tracker is active and reporting Choose busy, visible lots over quiet, dark corners Thieves watch motel lots for loaded rigs that will be gone by morning. Blocking the trailer in with the tow vehicle and locking the coupler makes yours the hard one to take.

POWERING IT**20. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

34. Powering a Tracker From the Battery A hardwired tracker draws a tiny trickle from the boat's battery, so it is always on without charging. The draw is small, but on a boat stored for months it can add up. A battery maintainer, or a tracker designed to sip very little, keeps the boat battery from draining while the tracker stays alert. A hardwired tracker runs off the boat battery, no charging The draw is small but adds up over months of storage A battery maintainer keeps the boat battery topped up Choose a tracker made to sip very little power My RV and boat batteries guide covers maintainers in plain English. A small maintainer lets a hardwired tracker stay on all winter without flattening the battery. KEEP IT FED 35.

Keeping the Tracker Hidden and Fed A tracker is only as good as its power and signal. Check now and then that a battery model is charged, that a hardwired one still has power, and that both are reporting in the app. A tracker you set up a year ago and forgot may be dead the night you need it. A quick monthly check keeps it ready. Check the tracker reports in the app now and then Recharge a battery model on a schedule Confirm a hardwired one still has power A forgotten tracker may be dead when it matters Set a calendar reminder to open the app and confirm the tracker is alive. It takes ten seconds and keeps your main line of defense dependable.

IF STOLEN**21. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

36. What to Do If It Is Stolen If the worst happens, stay calm and move in order. Check your tracker app for the location, call the police and give it to them, and do not go chasing the rig yourself. Have your serial numbers, photos, and papers ready for the report. A clear head and good records give you the best chance of getting it back safely.

- 1** Open your tracker app and note the current location
- 2** Call the police and report the theft with that location
- 3** Give them your serial numbers, photos, and papers
- 4** Do not chase or confront the thief yourself
- 5** Notify your insurer and file the claim WATCH OUT Never go after a stolen rig on your own, even if the tracker shows exactly where it is. Give that information to the police and let them handle the recovery safely. WITH POLICE 37. Working With the Police The

police are your partner in recovery, and good information helps them act fast. Give them the tracker's live location, the serial numbers, a description, and your photos. Ask for the report number for your insurance claim. The more you hand them at once, the quicker they can move on a rig that may be on the road. Give the police the tracker's live location right away Provide serial numbers, a description, and photos Ask for the report number for your insurer Stay reachable so they can update you quickly A live GPS location is powerful information for police, far better than 'it is gone.' Having your records ready at the same time turns a report into fast action.

RECOVERING

22. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

38. Recovering With the Tracker Many stolen rigs with a live tracker are found because the owner could tell police exactly where it went. The tracker keeps reporting as the rig moves, so its trail leads right to it. Your job is to relay that to the police and let them act; the tracker does the finding. The tracker keeps reporting as the rig moves Its trail leads police straight to the location Relay updates to the police as they come in Let the authorities make the recovery WATCH OUT This is the whole payoff of the small monthly fee. A tracker that leads police to your rig is worth many times what it cost over the years you never needed it. DETERRENCE 39. Deterrence Is Half the Battle It is worth remembering that the best outcome is a theft that never happens. A thief choosing between your locked, tracked, boxed-in rig and an easier one next to it will take the easy one. Visible locks and a camera do their job before anyone touches the trailer. Half of good security is simply looking like too much trouble. A theft prevented beats a recovery every time Thieves pick the easiest target available Visible locks and cameras work before a hand is laid Looking like trouble is often enough You do not have to make your rig impossible to steal, only harder than the next one. That is a goal a couple of good locks reach for most owners. A ROUTINE 40. A Simple Security Routine A short, same-every-time habit keeps your rig protected without much thought. Lock the coupler, check the tracker, park smart, and keep your records current. A minute of routine each time you park is what stands between an easy grab and a rig that stays yours.

COMMON WORRIES

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- 1 Put the coupler lock on whenever the trailer is parked
 - 2 Add the wheel lock for longer stays and storage
 - 3 Glance at the tracker app to confirm it is reporting
 - 4 Park to block the trailer in, lit and visible Keep the locks in the truck so putting them on is automatic. A routine you do without thinking is the kind that actually gets done every time.
41. Common Questions People Ask Me When folks ask me about protecting a boat and trailer, the same questions come up. Here are the honest short answers so you can set yours up with confidence. 'Is an AirTag enough?' Not on its own in rural spots — pair it with a GPS tracker 'Which lock first?' A coupler lock is the best-value starting point 'Do I really need the monthly fee?' It is what lets a GPS tracker call home 'What if it is stolen?' Give the tracker location to police; never chase it yourself If a question here is not covered, call or text and ask. A short conversation can save you from buying the wrong thing or missing an easy fix. YOUR CHECKLIST 42. Your Anti-Theft Checklist Here is the short version to keep with your boating papers. Check these off and your rig will be hard to take and easy to recover. A coupler lock on the trailer whenever it is parked A wheel or boot lock for storage and long stays A hidden GPS tracker, active and reporting, with a geofence set A Bluetooth tag as a cheap backstop, hidden separately The motor and electronics locked or taken home at the dock Serial numbers, photos, and papers kept safe at home Parked lit, visible, and boxed in wherever possible Insurance checked so theft is covered

WHEN TO CALL

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Tuck this list with your registration papers. A quick glance keeps your layers in place and your records ready, just in case. 43. When It Is Worth Calling Me Choosing locks and putting them on is something most people can do themselves. But if you want help picking a GPS tracker, setting up its app and geofence alerts, or getting a camera watching the driveway, that is exactly what I am here for. I have spent more than thirty years making tech simple for folks, and I will give you the honest answer on what fits your rig and where it sits, so you spend only on what helps. I can help you choose and set up a tracker, get the alerts working on your phone, and sort out a camera or two for where you park. My first in-home visit is a flat ninety-nine dollars, and remote screen-share help is forty-nine — call or text me at (330) 200-8042. CHEAT SHEET Everyday Cheat Sheet Keep this page with your boating papers. It is the short answer to keeping a boat and trailer yours. A coupler lock is the best-value first step — use it every time you park Add a wheel or boot lock for storage and long stays A hidden GPS tracker finds the rig if it goes, for a small monthly fee Set a geofence so the app alerts you the moment it moves A Bluetooth tag is a cheap backstop, but weak in rural, phone-sparse spots Lock or take home the motor and electronics at a dock Keep serial numbers, photos, and papers safe at home If it is stolen, give the tracker location to police — never chase it Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

HOW I CAN HELP

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Your Visit — and My Promise In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included. Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo). My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated. Call or text (330) 200-8042 · Book a visit: billshometech.com/book · bill@billshometech.com This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Three Layers of Boat Security

Each layer does a different job.

Locks

Deter and slow a thief
Coupler, wheel, and
motor
Visible, so they skip
you

GPS Tracker

Shows where the rig goes
Small monthly fee
Your main recovery tool

Bluetooth Tag

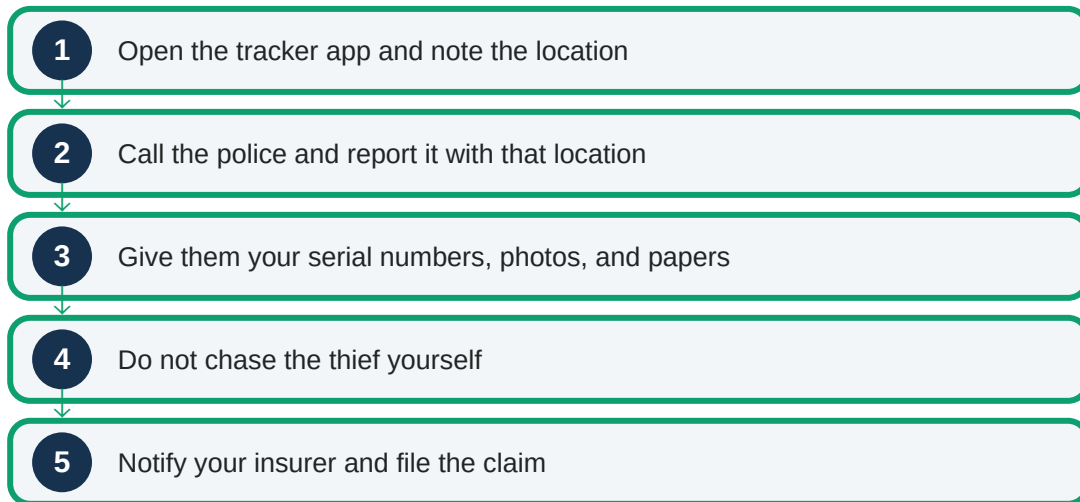
Cheap, no monthly fee
Needs nearby phones
A backstop, not the main

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

If Your Boat or Trailer Is Stolen

Stay calm and move in order.



BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: billshometech.com/book · bill@billshometech.com

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