

Steering wheel clubs are also available for large trucks and commercial vehicles. When properly installed, the arm of the club will come in contact with the windshield, thus preventing the wheel from being turned. The Club also serves as an excellent visual deterrent.

In addition, an item called *The Enforcer Steering Lock* secures the universal joint in steering columns. Used with a titanium or tamper proof pad lock, it is very difficult to defeat. It can be removed easily by the owner and is not cumbersome.

Another device known as Air Cuff Lock can strengthen a vehicle's security by preventing the vehicle's brakes from being disengaged.

Another superior device known as the *Pit Bull Tire Lock* can be attached to any tire and has a grip of 16 inches. Consisting of a pair of tamper proof aluminum alloy and steel caliper type arms that clamp the wheel, this device immobilizes the truck. The keyhole spins to prevent drilling. It installs within seconds.

Common sense is still your first line of defense against equipment theft!

- ★ Always park in well lighted areas.
- ★ Rollup and lock your windows and doors.
- ★ Never leave the keys in the ignition or hide them in or on the vehicle.
- ★ Install an audible alarm system
- ★ Install an immobilizing device such as an ignition or fuel cutoff switch.
- ★ Install a steering wheel immobilizing device such as "The Club" or a steering universal joint lock such as The Enforcer.
- ★ Install a tire immobilizing device such as the Pit Bull Tire Lock.
- ★ Consider purchasing a tracking device for your dump truck and other heavy equipment.
- ★ Install a video surveillance system and place warning signs in non-conspicuous areas.

The St. Lucie Sheriff's Office does not endorse the manufactures and/or products mentioned in this brochure.



Preventing Dump Truck and Heavy Equipment Theft

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Dump trucks and heavy equipment are a hot commodity for thieves throughout Florida. As a business owner your equipment is your livelihood and one of your largest investments.

It's estimated that losses total billions annually. Unlike a juvenile who steals a car to joy ride, heavy equipment businesses are often the targets of professional thieves. Not taking the proper measures to secure your investments may be disastrous. Many of the stolen dump trucks and heavy equipment are smuggled out of the country, broken down for parts or disguised for use in the United States. Very few are ever recovered.

An informed business owner is the first line of defense. By taking some basic preventative measures, you may make your equipment less desirable to the professional thief.

This brochure will help guide you in making the proper choices for your security needs.

Parking Your Equipment

Where you park your dump truck and heavy equipment is very important. If possible, park in a well lighted, secure compound. You may want to corral the vehicles instead of parking them side-by-side.

If you have a secure compound, consider purchasing cameras that can record activity 24 hours a day. The posting of "video surveillance in use" and "no trespassing signs" are also a good deterrent. Consider strengthening your gate entrance with tamper resistant locking mechanisms, or even a secondary gate.

"The St. Lucie Count Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit has trained professionals who can help you assess your security needs. Call us at 871-5303 to setup a free security assessment by one of our State Certified Crime Prevention Practitioners."

Securing Your Equipment

Always rollup and lock the windows, and lock all of the doors. Never leave the keys in the ignition, hidden inside, or on the truck.

Since many companies manufacture universal keys and the keys can be obtained through on-line auction sites, consider installing an alarm system.

Often times an alarm that emits a loud audible sound when a truck is tampered with or entered is enough to scare away a would-be thief. When installing an alarm system you should have an ignition interrupt device so that when armed it prevents the vehicle electronic ignition from being activated or bypassed.

Alarm technology has greatly improved. Devices such as "LoJack" and G.P.S. tracking, when combined with an alarm system, will greatly increase the odds of recovery should the other security measures be defeated.

A simple and yet cost effective option would be to install an *immobilizing device* in an inconspicuous location in or on the vehicle. This may prevent the vehicle from being moved. A properly placed ignition and fuel cutoff switch will make it difficult even for the professional thief.