

THE TRAKMY WHITE PAPER · CONSTRUCTION

The construction anti-theft guide

Equipment theft on site: quantifying the real cost of losses, mapping your risks and choosing the right tracking solution for your plant, tools and materials.

~€2bn

ANNUAL THEFT LOSSES (CONSTRUCTION)

7 in 10

FIRMS HIT (2025)

-70%

FEWER LOSSES AFTER TRACKING

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A quantified plague, accelerating since 2022

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Supplier due diligence

Site theft has become a structural cost line

STRAIGHT ANSWER

Three findings sum up this guide: the scale of the phenomenon, the weight of the hidden costs, and the effectiveness of properly sized tracking.

~€2bn

Annual theft losses (FFB, France)

7 in 10

Hit in 2025 (vs 1 in 2 in 2022)

-70%

Fewer losses after rollout

1 · The scale

Equipment theft in construction represents close to **€2 billion** of losses a year in France alone (FFB), or roughly **1.2% of the sector's turnover**. Seven firms in ten were affected in 2025 — a pattern reported across most European markets.

2 · The hidden cost

The stolen equipment is only the visible part. Lost time, emergency hire, project delays and higher premiums often weigh **more than the value of the asset itself**.

3 · The response

Properly sized tracking cuts losses by **70%** and pays for itself in the first year. The key: the right technology for each asset, and battery life that lasts years without intervention.

"The best incident is the one that never happens: a visibly tracked fleet is a less stolen fleet."

Theft in construction, a quantified plague

STRAIGHT ANSWER

Theft of equipment, tools and plant now exceeds €1 billion a year in France alone (the FFB puts it at close to €2bn in 2024, ~1.2% of sector turnover). A phenomenon widely under-recorded in company accounts — and getting worse.

~50%

Firms affected in 2022

~70%

Firms affected in 2025

+

Plant theft sharply up

Why construction is a prime target

Open sites

Temporary sites, lightly fenced or not at all, accessible at night and at weekends.

Mobile equipment

Plant, tools and materials move between sites constantly and resell quickly.

Weak traceability

Without marking or tracking, a missing asset is hard to identify and harder to recover.

Sources: Fédération Française du Bâtiment (losses, June 2024); 2025 construction theft barometer. French market data, cited as indicative orders of magnitude; figures vary by country, sector and region.

● CHAPTER 02 · THE HIDDEN COST

The iceberg: 72% of the cost is invisible

STRAIGHT ANSWER

The value of the stolen equipment averages **less than one third** of the total cost of an incident. The rest, invisible in the accounts, is often the most painful.

28%

Visible cost (replacing the asset)

72%

Hidden costs (everything else)

Below the waterline

- ✓ **Search time:** 30 to 60 minutes per site manager, per incident.
- ✓ **Emergency hire:** immediate replacement, at an unnegotiated rate.
- ✓ **Project delay:** penalties, rescheduling, other trades held up.
- ✓ **Higher premiums & excess:** premium increases, excess to absorb, sometimes refusal of cover.

The repeat effect

An untracked asset that disappears once will disappear again: with no deterrence and no evidence, the site stays a target.

PREVENTION > RECOVERY

Tracking acts as much on **prevention** as on **recovery**: an asset that is visibly monitored is markedly less likely to be stolen.

When, what and where equipment disappears

STRAIGHT ANSWER

Theft is not random: it follows time windows, targets specific assets and exploits known blind spots. Identifying them already reduces the risk.

When — the risk windows

The overwhelming majority of thefts happen **outside working hours**: at night, on Friday evening, at weekends, on a deserted site. That is where an **instant movement alert** makes the difference — it warns you when nobody is there.

What — the most targeted assets

- ✓ **Powered plant**: mini-excavators, access platforms, compressors, gensets — high value, quick resale.
- ✓ **Power tools**: breakers, grinders, lasers — small individually, heavy in aggregate.
- ✓ **Materials & containers**: copper, cable, trailers, skips — bulky but highly sought after.

Where — the blind spots

"Not stolen, just misplaced": often the machine is still on another site, at a subcontractor's or in a temporary yard. The outcome is the same: lost time, wasted journeys — and sometimes a genuine theft.

The depot and inter-site moves: depot ↔ site transfers and overnight storage account for a large share of disappearances. A **geofence** around each zone flags any abnormal exit.

Deter, detect, locate, prove, optimise

STRAIGHT ANSWER

Effective protection does not rest on a single gadget but on five levers used together.

1

Geofencing · the invisible barrier

A virtual perimeter around every site, depot or sensitive zone. Any entry or exit outside working hours triggers an immediate alert.

2

Instant movement alert

The tracker detects abnormal movement and notifies you. You act before the asset leaves the zone, and follow it on the map.

3

Long battery life, no intervention

A flat tracker protects nothing. Autonomous NB-IoT models last up to 10 years with no recharging or wiring — fitted once, they watch continuously.

4

Automatic inventory per site

Seeing at a glance which equipment is on which site removes the search and reveals the assets sitting idle.

5

Evidence & insurance cover

Location history is admissible evidence in a dispute or a claim — and can reduce both excess and premium.

DETERRENCE FIRST

A visibly tracked fleet is a less stolen fleet. Beyond recovery, tracking creates a **measurable deterrent effect**.

Which tracker for which asset?

STRAIGHT ANSWER

No technology is universal. Autonomous NB-IoT is ideal for equipment and tools; hard-wired 4G for plant in circulation. The right choice depends on the asset, not on fashion.

Technology	Battery life	Tracking	Ideal for	Limitation
Autonomous NB-IoT	5 to 10 years	Periodic (low bandwidth)	Equipment, tools, trailers, containers	Not second-by-second real time
Hard-wired 4G / LTE-M	On vehicle power	Real time	Powered plant in circulation	Requires wired installation
BLE (anchors + tags)	Several years	Indoor, by zone	Small equipment in covered depots	Short range, needs infrastructure
QR code / RFID	Passive	On manual scan	Inventory of low-value tools	No alerts, no location

The network point that matters

NB-IoT penetrates indoor and rural areas better than 4G, but remains low bandwidth (not real time). In a coverage gap, a good tracker **stores positions (up to 60 days)** and uploads them when the signal returns: no data is lost.

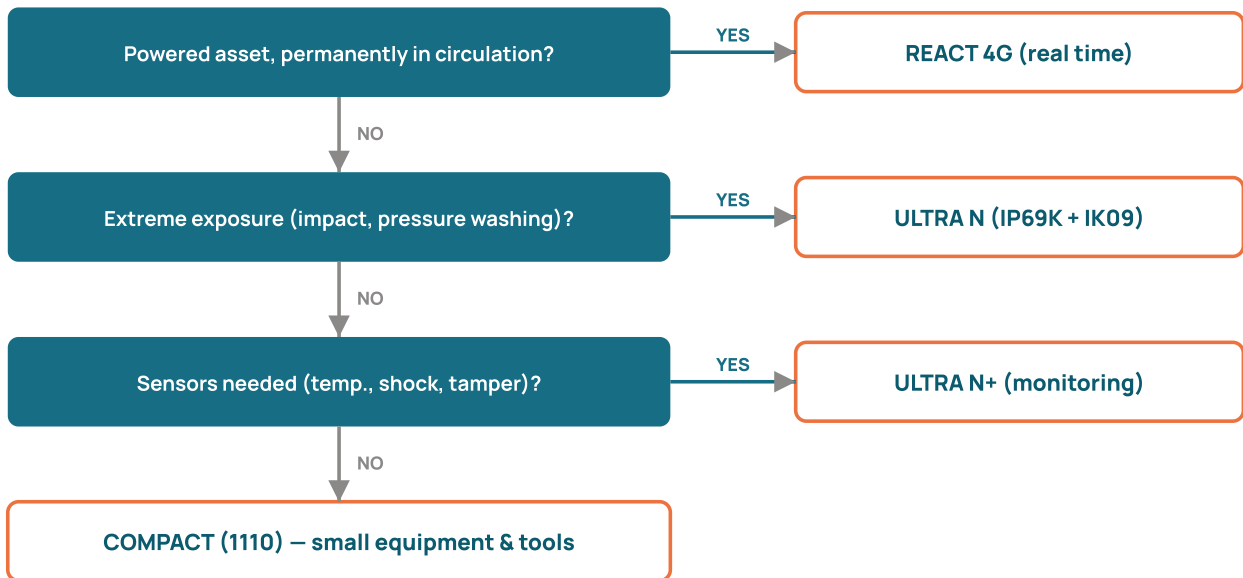
Which tracker for which asset

- ✓ **Powered plant** → REACT (1203): real time, mileage, engine hours.
- ✓ **All-purpose outdoor** → ULTRA N (1141): IP68/69K, IK09, up to 10 years.
- ✓ **Full monitoring** → ULTRA N+ (1101): GPS/Wi-Fi/BLE + 5 sensors.
- ✓ **Small equipment** → COMPACT (1110): compact format, GPS+Wi-Fi+BLE.

Sizing your fleet correctly

STRAIGHT ANSWER

Follow the reasoning asset type by asset type. When in doubt, **combine technologies**: that is the most effective approach on a mixed fleet.



Indoor: to track equipment in a depot or workshop, add Geobeacon anchors (zone-level positioning where GPS does not reach). Management: geofences, alerts and reports via the Essential / Professional / Analytics plans, with API connection to your ERP or TMS.

Calculating your return on investment

STRAIGHT ANSWER

ROI is measured along two axes: reduced losses (thefts avoided) and operational gains (time, hire, surplus fleet). Below, a fully worked example to adapt to your own fleet.

250

Assets equipped

€4,000

Average value per asset

3%

Annual loss rate before tracking

Saving lever	Calculation	Annual gain
Reduced theft	$250 \times €4,000 \times 3\% = €30,000$ lost, -70%	€21,000
Search time eliminated	$€45/h \times 46 \text{ weeks} \times 80\%$	€6,600
Emergency hire avoided	Replacing equipment that cannot be found	€5,000
Surplus fleet reduced	Optimised allocation (-10%), amortised	€4,000
Lower excess / premium	Thanks to documented location evidence	€2,000
Total estimated saving / year		€38,600

Illustrative example. Amounts depend on the actual value of the fleet, the claims rate and how sites are organised. TRAKmy produces a tailored calculation as part of a quotation.

Profitable in year one

STRAIGHT ANSWER

Against €38,600 of annual savings, the investment stays contained and is comfortably amortised in the first year, then highly profitable thereafter.

Item	Indicative amount
Hardware investment (250 trackers)	~€25,000
Platform subscription – year 1	~€7,500
Estimated savings – year 1	€38,600
Net gain from year 1	+€6,100
Subsequent years (subscription only ~€7,500 vs €38,600)	~+€31,000/year

×4.8

Annual return vs subscription

< 12 months

Payback period

Beyond the numbers: the qualitative gains

- ✓ **Operational peace of mind:** an end to searches and to "where is the excavator?" calls.
- ✓ **Image & sustainability:** less waste, better control of the fleet.
- ✓ **Predictive maintenance:** planned on actual machine usage.

THE VERDICT

Payback under 12 months, a positive net gain from year one, then a return of roughly ×4.8 on the subscription in following years. To be benchmarked against your own fleet.

Deploying in 7 steps

STRAIGHT ANSWER

A successful rollout is prepared. This proven sequence equips your fleet without stopping your sites and delivers results from the first month.

1**Map the fleet**

List the assets to protect, their value and their exposure. Prioritise high-value plant and tools.

2**Choose the technology per asset**

Real-time 4G for powered plant; autonomous NB-IoT for passive equipment; BLE in covered depots.

3**Define the geofences**

A virtual perimeter around every site, depot and sensitive zone, with out-of-hours alert rules.

4**Fit & activate**

Magnet, screw or industrial tape mounting. Trackers ship ready to use: quick activation, no heavy configuration.

5**Connect to your tools**

Two-way API into your ERP / TMS / GIS so the data lands inside your existing processes.

6**Train the teams**

A few minutes is enough: map, alerts, inventory per site. Adoption is won through simplicity.

7**Measure & adjust**

Track the indicators (thefts avoided, search time, utilisation rate) and refine the alert rules.

12 questions to ask your supplier

STRAIGHT ANSWER

A tracking project rarely fails on the technology, but on fundamentals overlooked during the evaluation. Demand field evidence, not sales promises.

- ☐ **Real battery life** proven in field conditions, over several years?
- ☐ **Battery** pre-installed and sized for your use case?
- ☐ **Robustness** validated over several seasons (beyond the IP/IK ratings)?
- ☐ **Network coverage** validated in the field, coverage gaps handled (offline storage)?
- ☐ **Controlled costs**: network consumption overruns prevented by design?
- ☐ **End-to-end security**: encrypted data, tags that cannot be cloned?
- ☐ **Data reliability**: validated and consistent over time?
- ☐ **Deployment at scale**: trackers ready to use, fittable by non-specialists?
- ☐ **Integration**: data available through a documented API into ERP / TMS?
- ☐ **Sovereignty**: data hosted in the European Union?
- ☐ **Accountable support**: a single contact who resolves rather than redirects?
- ☐ **Longevity**: documentation, training and month-1 / month-6 follow-up planned?

● OUR ANSWER

Why TRAKmy

STRAIGHT ANSWER

TRAKmy designs, deploys and supports long-life tracking solutions for construction, industry and transport – with a single point of contact, from quotation to ROI.

100,000+

Connected assets

10 years

Maximum battery life

74+

Countries with NB-IoT coverage

Made in Europe

Hardware designed and manufactured in Europe (Ireland), built to last in extreme conditions.

Data in Europe

Data hosted in the European Union, with in-house support from our Nîmes office in France.

API & integration

Two-way connection to your ERP, TMS and GIS, with no heavy development.

"Breez" construction insurance offer

In partnership with a leading insurer: fleet tracking plus cover matched to your exposure (available on the French market).

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Every day without tracking means hours lost hunting for machines, thefts that go undetected and a fleet that is under-used. The right tracker turns that **imposed cost into a controlled advantage**.



TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Secure your fleet today

Our experts will configure with you the solution that fits your construction fleet, your sites and your security exposure. Ask for a demonstration and a tailored ROI calculation.

[Request a quote](#)

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Data hosted in Europe (EU) · Hardware manufactured in Europe