



Protect Your Business from Catalytic Converter Thieves

Since 1975, all vehicles produced in the United States must have a catalytic converter as part of the exhaust system. The catalytic converter is an emissions-control device that contains precious metals that act as catalysts. When hot exhaust enters the converter, a chemical reaction occurs that renders toxic gases, such as carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons, into less harmful emissions.

With the price of precious metals skyrocketing, thieves are helping themselves to catalytic converters that contain enough platinum, palladium or rhodium to make it worth the risk to cut it from the underbelly of your vehicle. You might become aware that your catalytic converter has been stolen when your vehicle starts with a gravelly roar.

The Cost of Catalytic Converter Theft

Stolen catalytic converters are sold to scrap yards for \$20 to \$150, but the cost to you is even greater. Certain catalytic converters can cost upwards of \$1400 and certain cars, including the Toyota Sequoia, have two catalytic converters. There's the hassle of a vehicle that can't be safely driven, as well as the expense of having it towed to a local repair shop and getting the part replaced.

What Do Thieves Look For?

Catalytic converter thefts typically happen to vehicles that are parked for prolonged periods in large lots, such as shopping centers, mass transit commuter lots or company parking lots.

Vehicles that sit higher from the ground, such as trucks, pick-ups and SUVs, are particularly vulnerable to catalytic converter theft because thieves can slide underneath without having to jack up the vehicle to gain access to the converter. With just a few cuts of a battery-powered saw, the catalytic converter can be stolen in less than a minute.



NYPD COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BUREAU

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ALERT!!



- There has been a rash of catalytic converter thefts throughout the city.
- Your vehicle is one of the more prone vehicles.
- It takes 1 minute for a thief to climb underneath your vehicle and saw your property off, which they sell for scrap.
- If possible, have your converter welded on.
- Pass this handout to your neighbor.
- If you see something suspicious **CALL 911**

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CRIMEstoppers

Provide information anonymously and receive up to \$2000 for a tip that leads to an arrest and indictment

1-800-577-TIPS (8477)



**Police Commissioner
William J. Bratton**

Preventing Catalytic Converter Theft

- Visit a local muffler shop and have the catalytic converter welded to the frame.
- Doing this will cause a time delay and may give the police an opportunity to catch these individuals.
- Please share this information with your neighbors, friends and family.
- Help us Help You.
- By working together, we can defeat these criminals.



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