

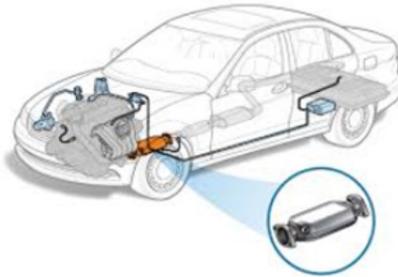


CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT PREVENTION

Catalytic converters are added to vehicles as an emission control device to remove pollutants from the exhaust. Converters turn harmful compounds into clean exhaust, using precious metals housed in a muffler-like package attached to the exhaust pipe. The catalyst helps convert carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides into carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and water.

WHY ARE CATALYTIC CONVERTERS STOLEN?

Converters use many different precious metals (like platinum, palladium, and rhodium) in the catalyst process. When disassembled, the metals inside are extremely valuable and provide a high reward versus the risk thieves take to steal them. Unfortunately, victims may pay up to \$2,000 in repairs alone.



Converters are fairly simple to remove with any metal cutting instrument.

Thieves can use battery-powered cutting tools to quickly cut both ends and remove the converter. However, with a little more work, hand-held cutting tools reduce noise while cutting and lessen the chance of getting caught.



TARGET VEHICLES

Vehicles are usually targeted when they have some type of converter installed. Trends vary, but the Toyota Prius and Ford E-250/F-250 (and larger with V10 Triton Engines) are popular vehicles. In the past, it was Toyota 4-Runners, as they are easier to get underneath.

THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

Vehicles are targeted everywhere and at all hours of the day and night. As with many crimes of opportunity, not being able to predict when it will occur hampers victims and law enforcement alike. Prevention may seem costly, but replacement costs could be in the thousands and take weeks to fix!

- » Mark your converter with VIN # so it can be traced, if located.
- » Install an undercarriage shield or cage.
- » Local exhaust/muffler shops may be able to incorporate metal rods alongside your converter.
- » Weld flange bolts to the vehicle.
- » Park in a garage or well-lit location.
- » Install a tilt sensing vehicle alarm system.

