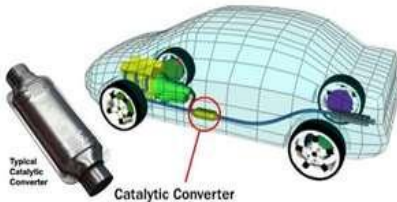


Catalytic Converter Theft

You get into your car, but when you turn the key, you hear a gravelly roar - a sign the catalytic converter was stolen off your vehicle. Across the country, thousands of drivers are experiencing the same surprise.

What are catalytic converters, and why is catalytic converter theft common?



Catalytic converters are devices that reduce pollution-causing emissions. Since 1975, all vehicles produced in the United States must have a catalytic converter as part of the exhaust system.

The price of precious metals is on the rise and catalytic converters contain enough platinum, palladium or rhodium to make it worth the risk to cut it from your car. Stolen catalytic converters are sold to scrap yards for around \$150.

Catalytic converters are stolen for the precious metals inside them.



Preventing catalytic converter theft

Preventing catalytic converter theft can be difficult. Vehicles that sit higher from the ground, such as trucks, pick-ups and SUVs, are particularly vulnerable because thieves can easily slide underneath the vehicle to gain access to the converter. With just a few cuts of a battery-powered saw, catalytic converters can be stolen in less than a minute. Catalytic converter thefts typically happen to vehicles that are parked in large lots for a long time, such as apartments, shopping malls, and park-and-ride ramps. These thefts occur both during the day and at night. While there are some ways to reduce theft, such as welding the converter or adding a commercially made locking device, there is some debate as to whether these methods are effective. In addition, getting an alarm system on your vehicle can be more hassle than help.

The best way to prevent catalytic converter thefts is to keep a watchful eye out for suspicious activity and **call 911 immediately** if you see or hear anything suspicious.

EXAMPLES OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:

- ✓ People hiding from passing traffic or looking into/under cars
- ✓ People sneaking into garages or secured lots
- ✓ An unfamiliar car parked in the neighborhood, especially at night, or driving slowly through the neighborhood, appearing to “case” the area

A graphic for Crime Stoppers of Minnesota. On the left is a logo with a hand holding a phone and the text '1-800-222-TIPS CRIME STOPPERS OF MINNESOTA "Crime doesn't pay...we do!"'. On the right is a box titled 'TEXT TIPS' with the text 'Now you can send a tip anonymously from your cell phone.' and 'Text TIP674 to 274637(CRIMES)' next to an image of a hand holding a flip phone.A graphic for iWATCH. It features a blue background with white stars and a red and white banner. The text 'iWATCH' is in large white letters. Below it, 'iREPORT' and 'i KEEP US SAFE' are written. At the bottom, the slogan 'See Something Say Something' is displayed.