

Catalytic Converter Theft Information And Prevention Tips

The Appeal of Catalytic Converters

The appeal of catalytic converters is directly correlated to the value of the metals used in manufacturing. Catalytic converters contain platinum, rhodium, and palladium. These metals are expensive. Thieves sell the converters to scrap yards for several hundred dollars apiece, depending on the size of the converter and the current rate of the metals inside it. It can cost you on average up to \$2000 to replace a catalytic converter, and it is illegal to drive your car without one. The resulting gap in your exhaust system also makes the car run poorly until it is fixed.

The rate of catalytic converter theft varies depending on the current prices of the metals inside it. Price increases typically result in an increase in thefts. Thieves look for easy targets when it comes to catalytic converter theft, and a few simple steps help make your car or SUV a less likely target.



Symptoms of Converter Theft

You'll notice a loud rumbling or roaring sound as soon as you turn on the engine if your catalytic converter is missing. This gets louder when you hit the gas. The exhaust is not working properly, so the vehicle also drives rougher than usual, often with a sense of sputtering as you change speed. Go to the back of the car and look underneath. The catalytic converter is a round canister that connects two pieces of piping in the exhaust. You will see a gaping space in the middle of your exhaust if the converter is missing, and you will likely see signs of the piping being cut away.



Prevention Tips on the Reverse Side

Preventing Catalytic Converter Theft

Always park in well-lit areas when possible. If you have a personal garage, keep your car in the garage with the door closed when the vehicle is not in use. Park close to a building entrance or to the nearest access road when parking in a public lot. This is due to the increased amount of pedestrian traffic in those areas.

Security devices are available that attach to the converter, making it harder to steal. Having the converter welded in place also makes it more difficult to remove. If you have a security system on your car, calibrate it so vibration sets it off. This ensures the alarm activates if a thief tries to saw off the converter. Video surveillance around your garage or driveway is also useful if you have the budget for it. Engrave your VIN or license plate number onto your catalytic converter to make it easier to identify in case it does get stolen.



We are asking for the public's help in providing any information about these crimes or suspects. Please contact the Manhattan Beach Police Department at 310-802-5140 if you have specific information regarding a recent catalytic converter theft.