

Catalytic Converter Advice

BE AWARE

We have recently seen an increase in motor vehicle offences. Specifically Catalytic Converters are being stolen from specific vehicles.

Makes & Models being targeted.

- Honda Accord & Jazz
- Toyota Prius & Auris.

Cars which are often targeted are those with higher chassis, such as a 4x4 or an SUV, however, other cars can still be targeted.

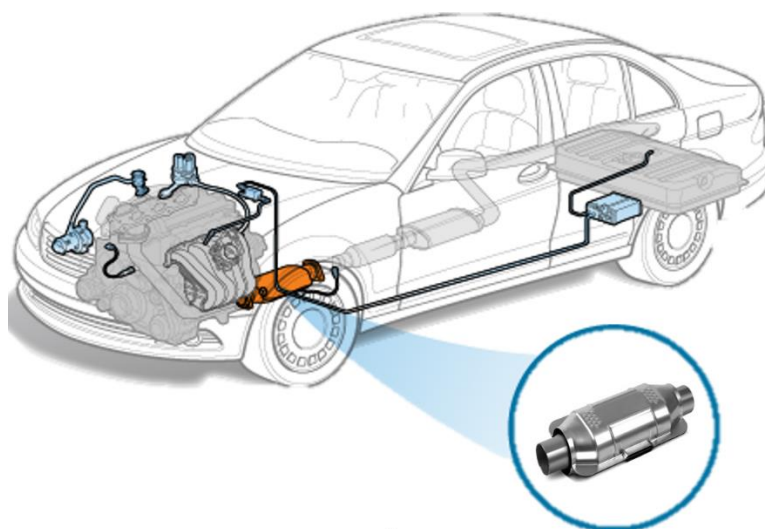
How the theft works:

A catalytic converter is located in a box on the exhaust pipe under a car. In order to steal it, thieves slide under the car and use high-powered cutting tools to detach the box from the pipes around it.

The metals are expensive and includes metals such as palladium, rhodium, and platinum. The thieves sell the converters for a couple of hundred per piece, depending on the size of the converter and the current rate on the metals inside it. It could cost you up to £2000 to replace a catalytic converter, and it is illegal to drive your car without one.

If you own one of the above makes, look to speak to your manufacturer about a "Catloc", a device which makes it harder for thieves to detach the catalytic converter from the bottom of the car.

You should also register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of. Visit securedbydesign.com for more details.



Did you know a thief can take the catalytic converter from your car in a matter of minutes.

To reduce the risk of having your catalytic converter stolen, you should:

- Park your car in a locked garage where possible, but if this isn't an option, then park it in a well-lit and well-populated area
- Park close to fences, walls or a kerb with the exhaust being closest to the fence, wall or kerb to make the theft more difficult
- Avoid parking your vehicle half on the pavement and half on the road, as this may make it easier for thieves to access the catalytic converter
- If parking in a public car park, consider parking alongside other cars and facing your bonnet towards the wall if possible. With the catalytic converter positioned at the front of your vehicle, this will make it harder for thieves to get close enough to steal it
- If there is a fleet of vehicles, park the low clearance vehicles to block the high clearance vehicles. This will obstruct access underneath.
- If your catalytic converter is bolted on, you can ask for your local garage to weld the bolts to make it more difficult to remove.
- Alternatively, you can also etch a serial number on the converter
- You can even purchase a 'cage clamp' which is a cage device that locks in around the converter to make it more difficult to remove
- Speak to your dealership about the possibility of adding a tilt sensor that will activate the alarm should any thief try to jack the vehicle up to steal the converter
- If you see someone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, report it to the Police. Obtain as much information as possible, including any vehicle registrations