

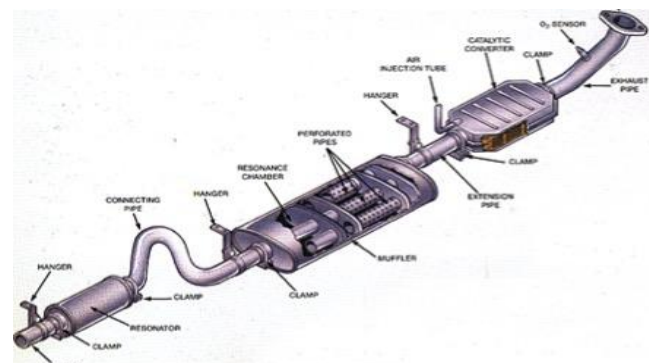


ALERT: Catalytic Converter Thefts Are On the Rise

THE SITUATION: Berkley Technology Underwriters and the insurance industry overall have seen an increase in theft of catalytic converters from vehicles over roughly the past 12 months. This uptick has coincided with increasing prices of precious metals throughout 2020.

WHY CATALYTIC CONVERTERS: Since 1975 catalytic converters have been installed on most gasoline-powered vehicles in the U.S. to comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency exhaust emissions regulations. Catalytic converters combine oxygen with carbon monoxide and unburned hydrocarbons to produce carbon dioxide and water. Exhaust gases from the engine combustion are routed through the catalytic converter core where they react with various catalysts from the core surfaces. The catalyst is typically a mix of precious metals, most often including platinum, palladium and rhodium. Diesel engines also utilize catalytic converters typically containing palladium and platinum as the precious metal catalysts.

In addition to their value, typically in the range of \$150-\$300 from scrap metal dealers who extract the precious metals from the units, catalytic converters are a target of opportunity for thieves because of their external location on the vehicle. **Thieves typically target late model trucks and SUVs**, because of their high ground clearance and easily removable bolt-on units. When devices are welded on, thieves may utilize battery powered reciprocating saws or pipe cutters, potentially resulting in additional damage to remaining vehicle components such as fuel lines or electrical wiring. Catalytic converters can be removed by savvy organized criminals in well under 60 seconds.



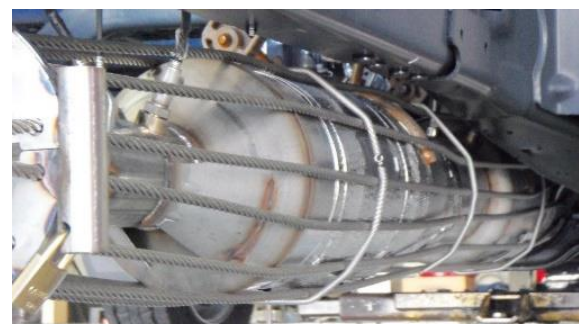
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PREVENTION: Tips to reduce exposure to catalytic converter theft.

- ☑ Park in a locked garage, secured lot or well-lit, densely populated area
- ☑ If the vehicle cannot be parked in a garage, park it close to fences, walls, or curbs with the exhaust system closest to the barrier
- ☑ Consider having a mechanic weld the bolts to make it more difficult to remove
- ☑ Consider a catalytic converter security device such as the [CatClamp](#) or [CatStrap](#) to deter would-be thieves
- ☑ Determine if a vehicle tilt sensor that activates an audible alarm when the car is jack up would be prudent for your situation
- ☑ If you witness suspicious activity in, around, or under a vehicle, report it to local law enforcement immediately



<https://catclamp.com/media/#images-10>



<https://catclamp.com/media/#images-5>