



Catalytic Converters GONE in 120 Seconds!

You start your vehicle and it sounds like a hot rod or loud motorcycle. What happened?? It's possible that the catalytic converter was stolen. Catalytic converters contain valuable metals such as platinum, rhodium, and palladium. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), catalytic converter thefts have increased significantly across the country, and Pool members have been the victim of this theft. Removing the devices takes mere minutes using basic tools. Replacement costs average between \$1,000-\$3,000, and there can be significant wait times to get a new one, resulting in the vehicle being out of commission for an extended amount of time. Make it harder for thieves and reduce the risk of catalytic converter theft by understanding what a converter is, why they are stolen, and steps to take to protect your fleet.



What is a catalytic converter?

- A catalytic converter is a device that uses a catalyst to convert three harmful compounds in car exhaust into harmless compounds.
- Catalytic converters convert about 90% of harmful emissions.
- Converters are located in the bottom of vehicles, just behind the engine.
- Vehicles registered after 1992 have a catalytic converter.



Why are they stolen?

- Catalytic converters are valuable to thieves for the metals they contain.
- They can be stolen quickly with basic hand tools.
- There are typically no identifiers on converters to aid recovery once stolen.
- Scrap metal dealers or other recyclers pay between \$50-\$250 for catalytic converters.
- Vehicles with a higher ground clearance are some of the most targeted vehicles for catalytic converter theft because the converters offer easy access.



How to Protect Vehicles:

- Park vehicles in a secure, well-lit area.
- Engrave the VIN or License Plate Number on catalytic converters to aid in potential recovery efforts.
- Weld catalytic converters to vehicle frames to make theft more complicated.
- Set vehicle alarms to detect vibration if equipped; however, consideration should be made for nearby businesses or residences to your parking area.
- Install a protective cover, known as a catalytic converter anti-theft device, that will make access and removal far more difficult and discourage theft.

Informational Link

- <https://www.nicb.org/news/news-releases/catalytic-converter-theft-skyrocketing-nationwide>