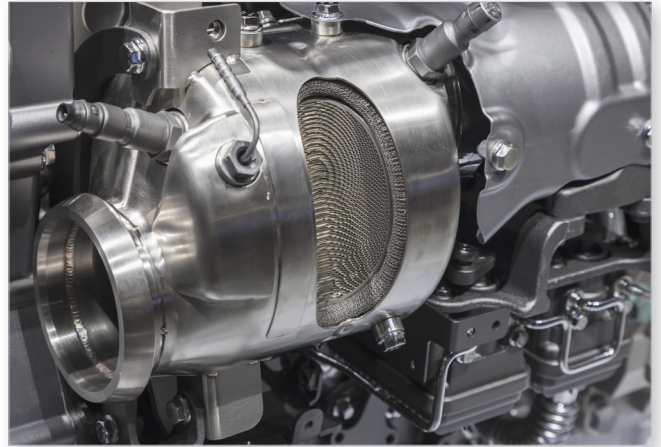




CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

Did you know that your car may be carrying precious metals like platinum, palladium, rhodium or even gold? It's true. The catalytic converter on your car may contain one or more of these valuable metals and enterprising thieves are well aware of this. Recently, there has been a rash of catalytic converter thefts as these metals can be illicitly exchanged for cash. If your catalytic converter is stolen, the repair cost is approximately \$2,500.



You might expect that the execution of a criminal heist of this nature would require an inordinate amount of daring, planning, expertise, finesse, and high-tech equipment. However, thieves merely need access to a single specific tool or reciprocating saw in order to easily pull off such a caper. Properly equipped, the entire process of getting under the vehicle, removing the catalytic converter, and escaping with the "jewels" typically takes less than five minutes. Furthermore, every gasoline-powered vehicle on the road today is equipped with a catalytic converter, which makes every vehicle a potential target. In addition, hybrid vehicles are typically of greater value, hence these vehicles have proven to be a prime target.

What can you do to prevent this from happening to your vehicle?

- Purchase and install catalytic converter security equipment: \$200 - \$400
- Park your vehicle in a secure garage
- Protect your fleet in a gated area and install security cameras
- Do walkthroughs of where your vehicles are parked regularly (especially if they are in the open)
- Consider contracting with a security firm to patrol your parking lot
- When out and about, park the vehicle in well-lit areas and close to building entrances
- Weld the catalytic converter to the vehicle frame
- Have the vehicle VIN Number engraved on the catalytic converter
- Calibrate the car's alarm system to detect vibration
- Mount a security camera positioned to monitor your garage or driveway while it is parked at home

By following the recommendations above, you can help reduce the risk of the catalytic converter being stolen from your vehicle. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Risk Management Department at riskmanagement@sdao.com.