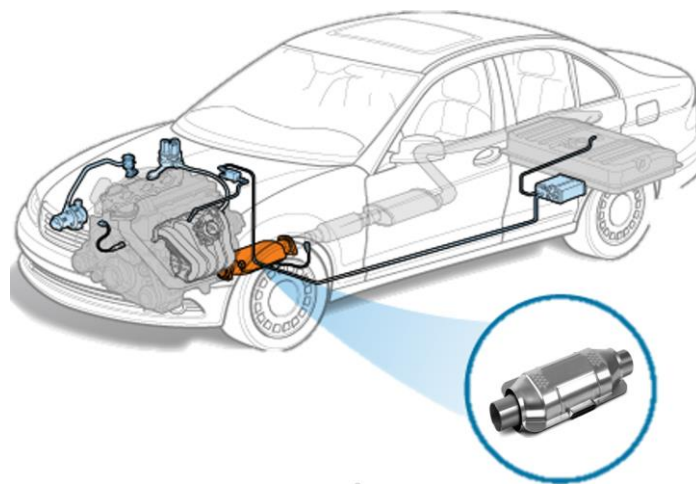


Catalytic Converter Theft

Vehicle owners and businesses are urged to be vigilant and consider taking safety measures to protect their cars.

Catalytic converters are designed to remove toxins from vehicle emissions. Catalytic converters contain several other metals, including copper, nickel, cerium, iron and manganese. Small amounts of rhodium are also found within a catalytic converter. Rhodium, like platinum and palladium, is very rare and valuable.

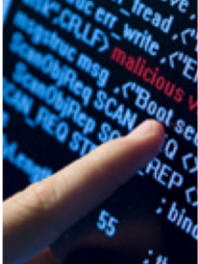


How are the catalytic converters (CATs) removed?

A pipe cutter, or similar, tool is used to cut the CAT from the pipe. Offences are most commonly occurring in residential locations. Vans and cars with higher ground clearance are being targeted.

If your catalytic converter is stolen, you'll know about it because your vehicle will sound different. Transit/Sprinter vans and other high clearance vehicles are especially vulnerable.

Hybrid and light weight vehicles are also a potential target possibly because they contain more precious metals than other vehicles and can be easier to lift with a car jack.



Catalytic Converter Theft



There are steps you can take to help prevent this crime:

Advice for motorists

- Where possible, park your vehicle in a locked garage, as close to your home as possible or in a parking spot overlooked by residents.
- Consider installing a Thatcham approved alarm to your vehicle. Ones that activate if the vehicle is lifted or tilted are particularly effective.
- Consider using a catalytic converter protection device or marking system approved by www.securedbydesign.com. For further advice email crimeprevention@northants.pnn.police.uk.
- If you see someone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, report it to police. Obtain as much information as possible, including any vehicle registrations.

Advice for businesses

- Employ defensive parking to ensure vehicles that are most vulnerable to theft are parked where they are least accessible to thieves. Consider blocking high clearance vehicles in with low clearance ones to prevent a would-be thief from getting underneath.
- Check your perimeter security. Ensuring your business has an appropriate boundary fence will act as a deterrent to opportunist catalytic converter thieves.
- Use lighting to illuminate areas where an intruder may be seen or attempt to operate.
- Consider investing in monitored CCTV to provide protection for your vehicle fleet.
- Check vehicle protection measures you are considering are approved by the Association of Chief Police Officers' Secured by Design scheme: www.securedbydesign.com.

If your catalytic converter is stolen, contact police immediately by calling 101. To speak to our crime prevention team about protecting your vehicles email the Business Crime Advisor at communitysafety@warwickshire.gov.uk.

For more information please visit
www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk

