



BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 North Third Street, Burbank, CA 91502

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

The problem of catalytic converter theft is on the rise again across the country, as the price of platinum, rhodium, palladium, and the metals found inside them rises. Police departments are advising residents to be aware that thieves target vehicles to steal catalytic converters for the value of recycling the precious metals within the catalytic converter.

We would like to put some of our crime-fighting expertise to work for you. Below is some information to give you a brief overview of catalytic converter theft and how your proactive vigilance can deter you from becoming a victim.

4 Quick Facts About Catalytic Converter Theft:

- Stolen catalytic converters sell for approximately \$40-\$200 each.
- They cost the victim approximately \$1,000 to replace.
- Catalytic converter thieves are known to strike in broad-daylight, in busy areas.
- SUVs and other vehicles with high ground clearance are especially vulnerable because they sit higher off the ground (making for easier access) and the bolts that connect the converter are easily removed. The most commonly targeted vehicles are late-model Toyota and Nissan SUVs and trucks.

Ways To Deter Catalytic Converter Theft:

- **Effective Security Lighting**
- **Video Surveillance Cameras**
- **Welded Bolts**
If your catalytic converters are "bolt-on," you can have the bolts welded shut.
- **ID# Etching**
Etching your converter with your VIN number will help the police track your converter after it's stolen. This will not protect you from theft, but it could help to catch the thieves preying on your neighborhood's vehicles.

Unfortunately, no matter how "safe" you play it, aside from locking your car up in your garage, there will always be a chance of this happening to your vehicle in your day-to-day life. The above information is meant to increase awareness and make stealing your catalytic converter more difficult for thieves.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS STATEMENT MAY BE DIRECTED TO
SERGEANT DARIN RYBURN, @ 818-238-3240

24-HOUR: 818-238-3000

PRESS INFORMATION OFFICE: 818-238-3240

DETECTIVE BUREAU: 818-238-3210

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