



# WARNING CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT



Typical  
Catalytic  
Converter



Stolen Catalytic Converter

Since 1975, all vehicles produced in the United States must have a catalytic converter as part of the exhaust system. The catalytic converter is an emissions-control device that contains precious metals that act as catalysts. When hot exhaust enters the converter, a chemical reaction occurs that renders toxic gases, such as carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons, into less harmful emissions.

With the price of precious metals skyrocketing, thieves are helping themselves to catalytic converters that contain enough platinum, palladium or rhodium to make it worth the risk to cut it from the underbelly of your vehicle. You might become aware that your catalytic converter has been stolen when your vehicle starts with a gravelly roar.

Catalytic converter thefts typically happen to vehicles that are parked for prolonged periods in large lots, such as shopping centers, mass transit commuter lots or company parking lots.

Vehicles that sit higher from the ground, such as trucks, pick-ups and SUVs, are particularly vulnerable to catalytic converter theft because thieves can slide underneath without having to jack up the vehicle to gain access to the converter. With just a few cuts of a battery-powered saw, the catalytic converter can be stolen in less than a minute. (Reprinted Nationwide Insurance)

***SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO:  
BST DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY [718.335.8715](tel:718.335.8715).***

***ALL CALLS WILL BE HELD IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.***