



PARK IT. MARK IT. PROTECT IT.

ETCH AND CATCH

Folsom Police Department is partnering with local businesses to provide free etching and painting of catalytic converters.

For more information or to find a participating mechanic, please visit

WWW.FOLSOM.CA.US/GOVERNMENT/POLICE



CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

Catalytic converters have become a hot commodity for thieves because of their value, relative ease to steal (unbolt or cut out), and lack of identifying markings. The lack of identification makes it hard to identify victims and successfully apprehend and prosecute criminals.

Thieves take stolen catalytic converters to metal recyclers. The recyclers will pay up to \$250 per converter for the precious metals inside them. Victims, however, will pay an average of \$1000 (or their deductible) to replace it.

COMMON VEHICLES TARGETED BY THIEVES

Any vehicle manufactured after 1974 can be a target. Most commonly targeted vehicles are:

- Trucks and SUVs- because trucks and SUVs are higher off the ground, it provides easier access to the catalytic converter.
- Toyota Prius and other lightweight vehicles- because they are lighter weight, they are easier to quickly jack up and remove the catalytic converter.

COMMON PLACES WHERE CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT OCCURS

- Your driveway or street, especially at night since thieves think they will not be seen.
- Auto dealer lots are targets, especially at night when no one is around. Thieves have been known to steal up to 20 per night from new cars sitting on the lot waiting to be sold.
- Parking Lots. Large parking lots have become hot-spots for catalytic converter thefts. A look out will watch out as a thief steals the catalytic converter.



TIPS TO PREVENT CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

- Park your vehicle inside your garage or in secure side yard.
- If you have to park outside, leave on exterior lights or install motion detector lights.
- Get your catalytic converter etched with your license plate number. Folsom Police Department is partnering with local businesses to provide etching and painting for free. Visit www.folsom.ca.us/government/police for more information.
- Install a cage around your catalytic converter or have additional metal welded to your exhaust system, making it more difficult to remove the catalytic converter.
- Report suspicious activity in your neighborhood. If you see a crime in progress, call 9-1-1. Call 916-355-7231 to report suspicious activity.