

RISK INSIGHTS

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

Many Canadian cities are reporting an increase of catalytic converter thefts. **A Catalytic Converter is a specific and valuable part of a vehicle's exhaust system. They're made from layers of precious metals designed to reduce many of the toxic emissions created by a vehicle's engine. This car exhaust component can be made up of precious metals such as platinum, palladium, and rhodium which make this part very appealing to steal and resell for high value.**

Using power tools, catalytic converters can be stolen from beneath a vehicle in a matter of minutes. Trucks and SUVs have been highly targeted over other vehicles, as they sit higher off the ground making it easy for would be criminals to get underneath and access the undercarriage of the vehicle. Most of these parts are unmarked, which makes them harder to trace to an individual vehicle. These valuable parts can be stolen for their resale value, or to sell to scrap yards and recycling facilities for the metals they contain.

Vehicle and businesses owners can suffer losses to their vehicles as well as vandalism and damage to property from these catalytic converter thefts if proper protection is not put in place.

TO MAKE VEHICLES IN YOUR, OR YOUR BUSINESSES, POSSESSION A HARDER TARGET FOR CATALYTIC CONVERTER THIEVES YOU CAN;

- Park vehicles within a fenced compound whenever possible. When a fenced area is not available or feasible, parking cars in well-lit areas can act as a deterrent.
- Park vehicles in a way that makes it harder to access their underside, such as against a wall or by other lower vehicles.
- A mechanic can etch an identification number into the device as a deterrent which can make it harder for thieves to sell stolen converters to some scrap yards.
- Increase security around your building with help from the following:
 - Install barbed wire protection along all fences.
 - Install Video Surveillance cameras around the interior and exterior of your business. Adding signage indicating your lot is protected with video surveillance can stop break-ins before they happen.
 - Add motion sensor lights to poorly lit areas.
 - Loud audible alarms can be designed to alert police or monitoring companies when fences are cut, windows are broken, or access to the building is breached.
 - Beam security for long sections of fenced compounds. When the beam is interrupted, an alarm is triggered.
- Use monitoring Stations. Having your burglar system monitored, notifies a third party when an alarm is tripped, who in turn notify local authorities of the security breach
- Other ways to prevent these thefts are:
 - Report any suspicious activity to local authorities.
 - Work with other local businesses who may be experiencing similar issues. Having a community approach to theft prevention can cause the would-be thieves to move on to easier targets.
 - Where possible, have catalytic converters welded to the frame of the vehicle to make removal difficult.
 - Engrave or etch the V.I.N. number of the vehicle onto the catalytic converter itself. This will assist authorities in tracking the catalytic converter and will also allow for improved tracking at recycling facilities and scrap yards.

For more information on making your business safer, contact our Risk Services Department at **1.833.692.4111** or visit us at www.nbins.com.