



Catalytic Converters

The theft of catalytic converters continues across the county. The Honda Jazz and CRV along with other Japanese models continue to prove popular although thieves are also looking at many other types while metal prices remain high. Vehicles are particularly vulnerable in public car parks such as those at shopping centres and hospitals. A “cat” can be removed from most popular vehicles in 60 seconds or less.

Some recommendations to reduce the risk are as follows. Recommendations 1-3 apply particularly to business premises and recommendations 3-7 apply to all motorists:

1) Fencing Around Vehicles

Parking within a secure fenced and gated compound acts as a deterrent to opportunist catalytic converter thieves.

2) Defensive Parking

If you have a fleet of vehicles, parking vehicles close together and close to walls will help to prevent easy access underneath the vehicles.

3) Effective Security Lighting

Good security lighting makes vehicles visible to the street without creating glare and can act to deter the thief. Remember that lighting is only effective if the area is overlooked, otherwise it acts as an aid to the criminal.

4) Garages

Where possible park in your garage and secure it.

5) Welded Bolts

If your catalytic converter is ‘bolt-on’ you can have the bolts welded shut but this is only a major deterrent where the thief is working with a wrench, not a cutter.

6) ID Etching

You could have your converter professionally marked with a serial number. This will provide police with evidence of the owner should it be stolen and later recovered. The problem with this one is that if the cat is marked, thieves can often open it up easily and remove the precious metals into a container, leaving the shell of the cat behind with your vehicle.

7) Consider a protective cage for the catalytic converter - contact your car dealer.