



PRESS RELEASE

Tacoma Police Department
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cityoftacoma.org/police

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Service Announcement – Catalytic Converter Thefts on the Rise

Police departments all across our nation have seen a rise in the thefts of catalytic converters. Catalytic converters are an important part of a vehicle's exhaust system and contain precious metals such as platinum and palladium. Thieves can remove a catalytic converter in minutes by cutting them off with a battery operated saw. In Tacoma, the most often targeted vehicles are the Toyota Prius and larger trucks, SUV's and vans. You will know your catalytic converter has been stolen by the loud noise your vehicle makes when you start it up. Those who have been affected by such thefts know that catalytic converter replacement can range between \$1000 and \$3000 including parts and labor.

The Tacoma Police Department would like to provide some easy ways you can best protect your vehicle.

- 1) Know if you're a target – All cars, but especially Toyota Priuses which account for the majority of vehicles targeted in Tacoma, secondly trucks and SUV's which are easier for thieves to slide under.
- 2) Secure your vehicle in a locked garage. Set motion-sensitive lights and park in your driveway or in a brightly lit area in front of your home if you don't have a garage.
- 3) Install a catalytic converter anti-theft device. Your mechanic or a search of the internet can show you what devices are available, costs and installation requirements.
- 4) Paint your catalytic converter with a high temperature fluorescent paint and etch your vehicle's identification number on the painted surface. This makes it traceable and more easily identifiable.

- 5) Set an alarm or camera. You can turn up the sensitivity of your car alarm so that it goes off if thieves jostle your car. A motion sensitive dash cam can alert you to the theft and possibly record suspect information.
- 6) Check your vehicle frequently if your vehicle belongs to a group, business or church that only uses the vehicle on certain days.
- 7) Check with your car insurance. Comprehensive insurance covers stolen auto parts. Find out if you will be covered and what your deductible amount will be prior to a theft.

If your catalytic converter is stolen, file a police report by calling the non-emergency number 253-287-4455. If you see a theft in progress call 911 immediately.

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