



## Recent Catalytic Converter Thefts

1. **Store your car in a garage when at home if possible. Thieves are looking for easy targets. If your vehicle is secured inside your garage, the thieves will be more likely to move on, away from your neighborhood.**
2. **Park in well-lit areas at night. Thieves prefer to work in darkness so they won't be seen while crawling under a car to saw off the Converter. If you must park in your driveway, the installation of a motion sensor light that illuminates the area may help to deter a thief. On the street, parking underneath a Street Light is highly recommended.**
3. **Use parking lots that have parking attendants whenever the option is available. An extra set of eyes is sometimes enough to deter converter thieves from invading a parking lot.**
4. **Etch your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) number into your converter with an etching kit. If your converter is stolen, this makes it easier for police to recover it and get it back to you, since they can prove it's a stolen part.**
5. **Install a catalytic converter protector. There are several types and usually consist of either a cage or cables that clamps over the catalytic converter to keep it attached to the car undercarriage. In addition, a local muffler shop can weld the converter to the undercarriage for an approximate cost of \$40.00. Depending on the type of vehicle you own, new Catalytic Converters range in cost from \$250 to \$1500. Please note, nothing is fool-proof, however taking steps to protect your property may keep you from being a victim.**
6. **Catalytic Converter thieves typically use a battery operated saw to cut through the metal pipe to remove the converter. If you hear the sound of a saw cutting through metal, and/or see someone you don't recognize underneath a vehicle in your neighborhood, **PLEASE, DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AT (209) 468-4400 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK!!****