

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT



FIRST PRINCIPLE

norfolk.police.uk/firstprinciple
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Key Points

Check your alarm is set every time you leave your vehicle.

Fit a catalytic converter protection device.

Get your catalytic converter marked.

Report any suspicious activity, even if it is in a public place.

Park in a garage or secure area.

Restrict access to the underside of the vehicle by parking close to walls or other vehicles.

PREVENT CRIME

PROTECT COMMUNITIES



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You



SUFFOLK
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Catalytic converters are fitted to vehicle exhaust systems in order to control harmful emissions. They contain several precious metals, including rhodium, platinum and palladium, which are highly valuable.

Check your alarm is set each time you leave your vehicle

Thieves will typically use a power tool to cut the catalytic converter from the exhaust system. Sometimes they will jack the vehicle up to facilitate this. Most vehicle alarms will be activated by the movement and vibration this causes, so setting the alarm could deter a theft before any damage occurs and will alert anyone nearby.

Make sure you take action if you hear an alarm, without putting yourself at risk.

Fit a catalytic converter protection device

A cage or lock around the catalytic converter will make it more difficult to steal. Check with your manufacturer before making any amendments and for advice on the most suitable model for your vehicle.

For details of police preferred specification products please refer to the Catalytic Converter advice at Secured By Design (SBD) [sbd-security-leaflet-catalytic-convertor.pdf](https://www.securedbydesign.com/leaflet-catalytic-convertor.pdf) ([securedbydesign.com](https://www.securedbydesign.com))

Get your catalytic converter marked

Marking your catalytic converter allows police officers to identify stolen property, which helps provide evidence for prosecutions. It also ensures that scrap metal merchants have a way of detecting stolen items and can refuse to purchase them.

This makes it more difficult for the thieves to sell stolen items.

Always use a specialist catalytic converter marking kit as it needs to be able to withstand the heat generated by the exhaust. Please refer to the SBD guide for details of suitable products. Keep an eye on the Suffolk Constabulary website and social media for details of free local marking events.

Report any suspicious activity, even if it is in a public place

Whilst many thefts occur in the hours of darkness in secluded areas, thieves are often brazen enough to steal catalytic converters in daylight and in

public places like car parks or on the street.



They often wear high visibility clothing and make themselves look like mechanics to avoid raising suspicion. Call 999 immediately if you think a theft is in progress or about to happen.

Park in a garage or secure area

Parking your vehicle in a garage or locked compound will mean it is out of sight and protected by another layer of security.

If this is not possible, park somewhere where there is good surveillance from houses or other occupied buildings and/or covered by CCTV.

If there is good surveillance nearby, make sure that the area is well lit.

If you have to park your vehicle on your drive at home, make sure you install dusk to dawn lights to illuminate the

area. Also consider a motion activated CCTV system so that you are alerted to any movement on your driveway.



When you park away from home, use a Park Mark approved car park [Car park finder](https://www.parkmark.co.uk) | [Safer Parking Scheme \(parkmark.co.uk\)](https://www.parkmark.co.uk)

Restrict access to the underside of the vehicle by parking close to walls or other vehicles.

Making the catalytic converter harder to access (quickly) will deter thieves, especially if you combine that with other measures such as an alarm and CCTV, as it increases the risk of being caught.

Avoid leaving a vehicle with two wheels on the curb as this will make access to the catalytic converter easier.

First Principle: Related links

Check out all of our Crime Prevention information using the following links or by using the QR code to take you to the First Principle Pages Alternatively go to our website at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/> and look in the 1st Principle A-Z of Crime Prevention.

Allotment Security
Anti-Social Behaviour
ATM Security
Beach Hut Security
Boat Security
Building Site Security
Business Security
Caravan Security
Caravan Storage
Card Security
Catalytic Converters
Church Security
Cold Callers
Commercial CCTV
Counterfeit Banknotes
County Lines Advice
for Landlords
Cyber Crime
Cycle Security
Dangerous Dogs
Dog Fouling
Dog Theft
Domestic CCTV
Domestic Violence
Farm Security
Fraud Prevention
Grooming
Hate Crime

Heating Oil
Home Improvements
Home Security
Home Security for
Tenants
Horses and Stables
Keyless Vehicles
Key Safe Security
Lock Snapping
Mopeds and Scooters
Motorcycle Security
Neighbour Disputes
Occupiers Liability
Personal Security
Power Tool Security
Products Brochure
Rural Crime
Security Alarms
Sheds and Garages
Social Media
Social Media for
Parents
Suspicious Behaviour
Shoplifting
Taxi Driver Safety
Vehicle Security
Windows and Doors



Other Links you might find helpful

Ask the Police
Secured by Design
Sold Secure

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111

Victim Care
0300 303 3705