

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT



FIRST PRINCIPLE

norfolk.police.uk/firstprinciple
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Top Tips

- **Park in well-lit areas**
- **Be aware of local problems**
- **Fit an anti-theft device**
- **Get your catalytic converter marked**
- **Report anything suspicious**

Catalytic converters contain several other metals, including copper, nickel, cerium, iron and manganese. Small amounts of rhodium are also found within a catalytic converter. Rhodium, like platinum and palladium, is very rare and valuable.

How are the catalytic converters (CATs) removed?

A pipe cutter, or similar, tool is used to cut the CAT from the pipe. Offences are most commonly occurring in residential locations. Vans and cars with higher ground clearance are being targeted.

Often the quarterlight window is removed or smashed to gain access to the bonnet release. The exhaust system is then accessed, unbolted and then is either taken, in its entirety, or discarded after the CAT has been cut free.

There are a number of prevention tactics you can consider to try and reduce the risk of becoming the next victim of CAT theft.

- Park your vehicle in a locked and secure garage/compound at all times.
- The use of alarms, lighting and CCTV can deter thieves. If this isn't possible park in a well-lit public area.
- Park in such a way as to make access to the catalytic converter difficult, or parallel with another vehicle if you own one.
- Report suspicious activity by looking out for people 'working' under vehicles as they may not be the owners or lease holders, even if they have fluorescent jackets on.
- Mark your catalytic converter by etching your vehicle registration onto the metal shell, or by using a Secured by Design (SBD) approved forensic marking solution which is heat-resistant. This makes it easier for police to trace the converter back to your vehicle should it ever be stolen, and links offenders to a crime.
- Consider fitting additional security on your vehicle(s) by installing an SBD approved converter security product, such as a clamp.

First Principle: Related links

Ask the Police

Official Police Resource. The Ask the Police website provides you with information on a wide range of non-emergency policing matters.

askthe.police.uk

Secured by Design

Official UK Police initiative that combines the principles of 'designing out crime' with physical security.

securedbydesign.com

Sold Secure

Dedicated to reducing the risk of crime by assessment of security products.

<https://www.soldsecure.com/>

Crimestoppers

An independent charity that gives people the power to speak up to stop crime 100% anonymously, by phone 0800 555 111 or online.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Victim Support

Covering the whole of Norfolk and Suffolk, a free, confidential support service specifically designed to help victims and witnesses of any crime.

Contact us on:

Phone: 0300 303 3706 (weekdays between 8am-5pm)

Email: nsvictimcare@victimsupport.org.uk

Web: www.nsvictimcare.org

Socials: @nsvictimcare

Call us on 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency

To see the full range of information go to:

suffolk.police.uk/firstprinciple or

norfolk.police.uk/firstprinciple

Or alternatively use your mobile phone to scan this QR code.



