



# CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

→ HOW HENRICO POLICE CAN HELP YOU AVOID BEING A VICTIM TO THIS RISING CRIME

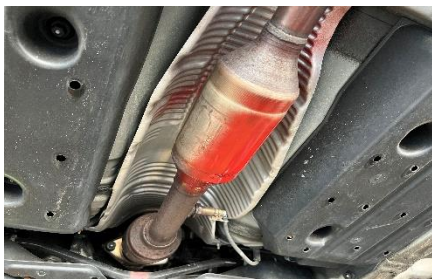
## Theft Prevention Methods

There are a number of prevention methods that can help you avoid being a victim of catalytic converter thefts.

### AFTERMARKET ITEMS YOU CAN PURCHASE:

- Protective shields and covers
- Converter clamp locks and cables
- Smartwater CSI Dye, a permanent, traceable liquid that can only be seen under UV blacklight

### MARKING CONVERTERS TO DETER THEFT:



Henrico Police is implementing methods to deter theft and allow recyclers/scrap yard workers to more easily identify a stolen converter, such as marking converters using a high-heat spray paint and utilizing an etching machine. Vehicle owners could apply this deterrent method as well, doing so with caution or by consulting a mechanic.

### AWARENESS AND EDUCATION:

The key to crime prevention is awareness. Henrico Police is partnering with surrounding jurisdictions and community partners to share information and educate residents/business owners on this rising crime trend.

## Henrico Police Taking Action

### INVESTIGATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE

Henrico Police assigned a detective to investigate all catalytic converter thefts in Henrico County. Additionally, a specialized unit compiles data collected through our investigations and shares known suspect information throughout the Division.

## HIGH-HEAT SPRAY PANT

Henrico Police is asking all auto businesses in the county who wish to provide this opportunity to customers, to use a RED colored high-heat spray paint. This allows officers to make note of the marking in their reports, if one is stolen.

## Prevention Awareness

### WHEN AND WHERE MOST THEFTS OCCUR

- Daycare centers, churches, commercial parking lots, automotive dealers, and vehicle repair shops are often targeted.
- Catalytic converters are also stolen from vehicles in apartment complexes and residential neighborhoods.
- Vehicles made between 2000 and 2008 are targeted more than newer vehicles.
- Most thefts occur 10 p.m. - 5 a.m.

### VEHICLE MAKES AND MODELS MOST TARGETED

While any vehicle with a catalytic converter could be a potential target, the following are the most frequently targeted vehicles:

- Ford and Chevrolet: full-size passenger vans, including box trucks, commercial vans, and minibuses
- Toyota: Prius, which has two catalytic converters
- Honda: Element, Accord and Civic models

## Why Catalytic Converters are Being Stolen

The demand and cost of the precious metals found inside catalytic converters are at an all-time high and thieves are taking advantage and cashing in. It only takes a few minutes to cut a catalytic converter from a vehicle. They are then

sold to recyclers and scrap yards for several hundred dollars per converter.

## Report Suspicious Activity and Theft Right Away

- Be informed and take preventative measures.
- Report suspicious activities as they occur.
- Report a stolen catalytic converter to Henrico Police as soon as possible. The more evidence we can collect, the better.
- Park vehicles in garages or well-lit areas.
- Report thefts and suspicious activity to Henrico Police right away. **Call 911 in an emergency** (such as when witnessing someone attempting to steal a converter), or **(804) 501-5000 in a non-emergency**.
- Report crime information/ tips anonymously to **Metro Richmond Crime Stoppers** at (804) 780-1000, [P3tips.com](https://www.p3tips.com), or using the P3Tips app.



(Information updated January 2026)