

# TUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

# CRIME BULLETIN



## CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT & PREVENTION

Tustin Police Department has noticed a rise in the theft of catalytic converters from vehicle exhaust systems. The most common vehicle types being targeted are the following:

- Toyota Prius
- Honda Element
- older model Honda Accord

Trucks and SUVs have also been targeted due to the higher ground clearance, which allows for easier access underneath those vehicles.



## WHY ARE THEY TARGETED?

The metals used in the manufacturing of the catalytic converters are valuable. Catalytic converters contain platinum, rhodium, and palladium. Thieves will steal and sell the converters to scrap yards for several hundred dollars per piece, depending on the size of the converter, as well as the current rate on the metals inside. Meanwhile, it can cost you on average up to \$2000 to replace a catalytic converter. The lack of the catalytic converter results in poor vehicle function. Additionally, it is illegal to drive without one.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

# DETER & PREVENT



## PREVENTING CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

### 1. Park defensively.

- Near brightly lit areas.
- Near windows at a business.
- Near security cameras.

### 2. Research security devices for your vehicle type that you can attach to your converter and get one installed.

### 3. Etch your catalytic converter with your vehicle's VIN number.

- This will help police identify your catalytic converter if it is found in someone else's possession.
- If your catalytic converter is stolen, file a police report immediately after you discover the theft.

## ETCH YOUR CATALYTIC CONVERTER FOR FREE WITH OUR ETCH & CATCH PROGRAM

### CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

**GALAXY AUTOMOTIVE**  
695 EL CAMINO REAL  
(714) 731-6969

**IRVINE AUTO CARE**  
3097 EDINGER AVE #C  
(949) 559-1311

#### MIDAS

3085 EDINGER AVE  
(949) 551-1558

#### PURRFECT AUTO #79

3075 EDINGER AVE  
(949) 653-0100

#### STERLING COLLISION

1111 BELL AVE C  
(714) 259-1111

#### TIRE CHOICE

14511 RED HILL AVE  
714-594-5608

#### TUSTIN BODY WORKS

1361 BELL AVE  
(714) 566-0104

**FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT POLICE SERVICES OFFICER ISMAILOVA AT 714-573-3396 OR ZISMAILOVA@TUSTINCA.ORG**