

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 and tips anonymously to **Metro Richmond Crime Stoppers** at (804) 780-1000, P3TIPS.com, or using the P3Tips app.



EMERGENCY: 911
NON-EMERGENCY: (804) 501-5000



ONE TEAM. ONE COMMUNITY.
SAFER TOGETHER

Chief of Police
Eric D. English



HENRICO.US/POLICE



Henrico County Police Division
P.O. Box 90775 | Henrico | VA 23273

Emergency | 911
Non-Emergency | (804) 501-5000
General Info | (804) 501-4800

police@henrico.us

Catalytic Converter Theft



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



ONE TEAM. ONE COMMUNITY.
SAFER TOGETHER

Theft Prevention Methods

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



AWARENESS & EDUCATION

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

Henrico Police Taking Action

INVESTIGATIONS & INTELLIGENCE

Henrico Police has 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.

CATALYTIC CONVERTER INITIATIVE GROUP

Henrico Police has assigned a group of officers to conduct directed patrols, take reports, collect evidence, such as fingerprints, from crime scenes, and review available security-video footage to identify suspects.

HIGH-HEAT SPRAY PAINT

Henrico Police is testing high-heat spray paint stenciling on catalytic converters with to provide a visual deterrent to thieves as well as help trace the converter back to the vehicle from which it was stolen. We are also working with local recyclers and scrap yards to obtain seller information.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Help us spread the word about catalytic converter theft prevention! Share our video on how to know, and what to do, if you suspect your converter has been stolen. Watch at youtu.be/i3gYD0qD5sA or @HenricoPolice on YouTube.

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 & 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

