

How to Protect Your Fleet from Catalytic Converter Theft

By InterMotive Vehicle Controls

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Catalytic converter theft has become a prominent worry for everyone, especially fleets. Thieves are targeting [work trucks](#), [ambulances](#) and [buses](#) at an alarming rate. Theft can happen so fast that an entire fleet of vehicles can be taken out in minutes, costing thousands of dollars per vehicle in parts, repairs and downtime. It's even put some companies [out of business](#).

Why is theft so rampant right now?

The price of palladium found inside catalytic converters is [higher than gold](#) right now, due to a global shortage. This is bad news for all of us driving around with these potentially money-making parts, not to mention those who are waiting on replacements.

The price to replace and install catalytic converters is on average \$1,000 to \$3,000, and more if your vehicles have two or three of the costly parts.

What type of vehicles are targeted?

It varies by region, but [according to CARFAX](#), the following vehicles are the overall top 5 targets nationwide:

- 1985-2021 Ford F-Series pickup trucks (F-150, F-250, etc.)
- 1989-2020 Honda Accord
- 2007-2017 Jeep Patriot
- 1990-2022 Ford Econoline vans
- 1999-2021 Chevrolet Silverado pickup trucks

Older vehicles are least likely to be targeted, since their catalytic converters aren't worth as much as newer vehicles. Electric vehicles are also off the list since they don't have or need catalytic converters.

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Where is theft the worst?

The [top states for theft](#) are California, Texas and Washington, followed by Minnesota and Colorado. New hotspots for the first part of 2022 are Indiana, Georgia and Rhode Island.

What can you do to protect your fleet?

There are several anti-theft options out there: steel cables and wire cages, locks and shields. Engraving markers and even [painting the cat pink](#) are some solutions to discourage theft.

Alarms can be the most effective, as they draw direct attention to the vehicle under attack. One anti-theft alarm from [InterMotive Vehicle Controls](#) includes a unique feature that can make all the difference for fleets being targeted.

[CATAlert™](#) will not only sound the horn if the catalytic converter or alarm is tampered with but includes an output for real-time notifications to be sent via telematic devices. Fleet personnel can instantly determine which vehicle is being assaulted and take immediate action.

If your fleet vehicles are vulnerable, it's worth it to consider taking some protective measures to deter thieves from making yours their next target.

For more information about CATAlert, visit www.InterMotive.net.

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About InterMotive

InterMotive Vehicle Controls provides commercial safety and performance optimization products. Our plug and play electronic control systems leverage a vehicle's own data networks to enhance its functions in new ways. We specialize in custom solutions for multiple industries including work truck, ambulance, transit and school bus. To learn more, call 800-969-6080 or visit www.intermotive.net.