



Your Source for Hard - to - Find Catalytic Converters



# WINTER NEWS LETTER

QUARTERLY EDITION

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## DEALING WITH CONVERTER THEFT

Police and local law enforcement officials nationwide are reporting a spike in Catalytic Converter thefts. From almost every part of the country thieves are stealing Catalytic Converters off parked cars and selling them on the black market sometimes fetching hundreds of dollars at scrap yards and other recyclers.

With the worldwide price of precious metals soaring, these stolen Converters are worth more and more and thefts continue to rise. National Sales Manager Glenn Hamblett says, "Over the years we have always seen small spikes in thefts whenever the price of precious metals climb, but we have never seen anything like this. We are getting calls from all over the country everyday asking for our

help to get replacements for these stolen Converters."



Truck Converters are one of the biggest targets at this time for theft. Law enforcement officials seem to think that these are good targets because they are high enough off the ground to get under quickly and in most cases a thief can have this Converter cut from the vehicle in less than two minutes. National Sales Manager Glenn Hamblett also adds, "The Toyota Prius seems to be a preferred target also. This is an underbody Catalytic

Converter has a high PGM content which fetches higher prices like the truck Converters which also tend to have heavier PGM loads."

With thefts being so common place and making the local news, car owners are resorting to precautions to deter thefts. Many are resorting to more security cameras at home and aftermarket antitheft devices like additional brackets and shields which make them more difficult to steal. Nobody wants to go out and start



their car only to hear the ROAR of an open exhaust system with their Catalytic Converter missing.

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# PRECIOUS METALS ON THE RISE

Consider the following — The three precious metals commonly used in the substrate of Catalytic Converters are Platinum, Palladium and Rhodium. The spot market prices of these Platinum Group Metals (PGM) are as follows:

PGM	Price Per Troy Ounce Today	Price per Trop Ounce 5 Years Ago
Platinum	1,269.00	900.00
Palladium	2,423.00	500.00
Rhodium	21,500.00	600.00

In comparison, the price of Gold today was 1,820.00. Rhodium in particular is very effective in reducing oxides of nitrogen (NOx) from automotive exhaust and as emissions standards all over the world become tighter, the demand for Rhodium increases significantly. Pandemic related supply restrictions have had an impact here also so we are in a classic high demand / low supply environment for these PGM's. Thus, creating a perfect storm of influences on prices.

# CONVERTER THEFT continued...

Prices for aftermarket Catalytic Converters are on the rise and the pressure on manufacturers has never been greater to manage costs and to stay price competitive. Owner Ray Surprenant adds "Davico continues to manage cost increases for steel (50%), shipping costs (25%), labor shortages due to Covid-19, along with the continual rise of precious metals. And Davico continues to work with our vendors to ensure sufficient supply. We continue to increase efficiencies as we have grown to reduce the impact of these increased costs and due to our efforts around efficiency, automation, and robotics, Davico has absorbed these increased costs for as long as possible and minimized our passing along only a small cost increase to our customers."

For more information on this story or help to replace stolen Catalytic Converters please contact Davico Technical Services at [contactdavico@davicomfg.com](mailto:contactdavico@davicomfg.com) or find us online at [www.davicomfg.com](http://www.davicomfg.com)



Snow falls outside of Davico MFG's main entrance.

*"Prices for aftermarket Catalytic Converters are on the rise and the pressure on manufacturers has never been greater to manage costs and to stay price competitive."*

— Ray Surprenant, Owner

Just over a year ago a man in Missouri was crushed to death attempting to steal a converter off a Prius in a parking lot.



— Credit KCTV (Meredith Corp.) 2020