

FREE ENGRAVING SERVICES

A number of garages across Aylesbury Vale will engrave your catalytic converter with a security number free of charge if you have your vehicle serviced or repaired there. Please go to the following web link to find the details of participating garages:

<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/community-living/community-safety> and navigate to 'new links' at the bottom of the page and click on the 'catalytic converter engraving' hyperlink.

Alternatively, contact AVDC Community Safety on **01296-585014**

Please be vigilant in your neighbourhood and report any suspicious activity straight away to your local neighbourhood team on 101 or if you believe a crime is in progress call 999. If you would like to pass on information but wish to remain anonymous then call Crimestoppers on **0800-500-111**

PROTECT YOUR CATALYTIC CONVERTER



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THIEVES WOULD LIKE TO STEAL IT!



THAMES VALLEY
POLICE



WATCH OUT!

Thieves are stealing catalytic converters (located in a vehicles exhaust system) because of the high value of the precious metals they contain. A catalytic converter could cost you up to £1200 to replace.

Your vehicle(s) with a high ground clearance is more at risk as it is easier for a thief to slide underneath – vehicles targeted include Mercedes Sprinters/Ford Rangers/ Mitsubishi vans/4x4's. It takes a thief about 90 seconds to unscrew the securing bolts or cut the exhaust and walk away with your converter.

STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR CONVERTER

Please take one or more of these precautions to help stop you becoming a victim:

- Park in a locked garage - where possible.
- Have a catalytic converter alarm fitted – this will go off when any attempt is made to remove the converter. The purpose made Pro Catt III alarm system, which is Thatcham approved, is available with a 20% discount from Secure Micro Solutions Ltd, at a cost of £239.99 ex. VAT. Please ring **01132-467230** or e-mail **sales@securemicrosolutions.com** of fax **01132-427778** quoting the 'Aylesbury Vale District Council campaign' to find out more or to arrange fitting. An LED on the vehicle windscreen indicating the alarm is live and window stickers are also fitted to deter thieves.

PROTECT YOUR CATALYTIC CONVERTER

- Engrave/etch the converter – having stickers on a vehicle warning that the converter is security marked deters thieves as they will not want to take something that is harder to sell on and easier for police to trace*.
 - Invest in a lock – have a specially devised catalytic converter lock professionally fitted. Most garages can advise you on these locks.
 - Weld converter bolts – you could have your mechanic weld them on. The main drawback is that it will be more difficult for you to remove and will be more expensive.
 - Install motion sensor lighting - this comes on when it is dark if there is any movement around your vehicle/premises.
 - Park your vehicles defensively - if you own multiple vehicles use those with the lowest ground clearance to block those with a higher clearance. If all your vehicles have a high clearance park them very close together.
 - Perimeter security fencing - will deter thieves. Information on 'police preferred' products can be found at **www.securedbydesign.com**
- *Free engraving service – see overleaf for how to benefit from a free engraving service at local garages.**