

Catalytic Converter: theft prevention advice



Thieves steal catalytic converters for the valuable metals they can contain. Vehicles with a higher chassis are often targeted, as are hybrid vehicles. To keep yours safe, ask your car dealer if they can give you any advice on locks, cages or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer.

To further protect your vehicle:

- Park your car in a locked garage where possible, but if this isn't an option, then park in a well-lit and well-populated area.
- If using a public car park, park alongside other cars and face your bonnet towards a wall where possible.
- Avoid parking half on the pavement, which makes the underside of your vehicle more accessible.
- If your catalytic converter is 'bolted on' you can have the bolts welded shut.
- Identify/etch your converter with a unique reference number and register it at www.immobilise.com
- Installing security lighting and CCTV on your drive can act as a deterrent. Look for approved CCTV installers in your area who are members of a recognised inspecting body e.g. United Kingdom Accreditation Service.

If you see someone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, report it to the police. Obtain as much information as possible, including any vehicle registrations.

National Trading Standards highlight Covid-19 Scams

Criminals are adapting as the coronavirus pandemic develops. NTS have listed seven [likely scams](#) to watch out for:

1. **Price gouging** - when traders over-inflate products that are likely to be in high demand, such as Covid-19 testing kits.
2. **Online fraud** - where websites, apps and social media are used to sell counterfeit products as more shoppers are buying online.
3. **Copypat websites** - on which criminals pose as people delivering legitimate government initiatives.
4. **Claims of miracle cures** - including fake coronavirus treatments.
5. **Misrepresented home viewings** - as virtual property viewings are now more common, there are risks of buyers or renters not getting the true picture of a home.
6. **Fake refund websites** - offering "assistance" in claiming refunds which, at the least, is advice that charities offer for free.
7. **Exploiting the vulnerable** – not a new tactic, but will become more prominent.

Romance Fraud: Don't fall for a #fauxmance

Criminals are quick to use online dating websites/apps, social media platforms or gaming sites to gain your trust and form a relationship with you. They will invent reasons to ask for your help in sending them money or providing them with a loan. Always consider the possibility that this could be a scam.

Keep your money and information safe by checking their profile photos are not associated with another name. You can do this by uploading the picture of the person you're talking to into Google Images. If you're asked to send them money, take a loan out for them or allow them access to your bank account, **stop** and [Take Five to Stop Fraud](#).



Courier Fraud #StopChallengeProtect

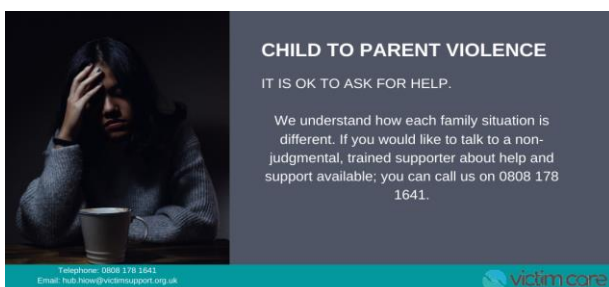


Criminals pretend to be from your bank or the police and often do their research first to find out information about your personal and financial details.

Remember: Your bank or the police will NEVER call and offer to pick up your card & PIN by courier if they suspect fraud or notice suspicious transactions on your account.

Do not feel pressured to do something you're not comfortable with. It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore requests. [#TakeFive](#) and speak to someone you trust.

Victim Care Service for child to parent violence



If you need help and support but do not want to talk to the police about your child, the [Victim Care Service](#) can help. They offer free support to anyone affected by crime in Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Call free on 0808 178 1641 or Email: hub.hiow@victimsupport.org.uk

For further Crime Prevention advice please visit www.hampshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/