

Catalytic Converter Failures -which cause void of warranty

If a catalytic converter needs replacing, one of the problems below most likely contributed to its failure.

Engine Tune Required/Excess Fuel Entering the Exhaust

A number of problems could occur to the catalytic converter as the result of an engine that is out of tune. The damage is often the result of an incorrect air/fuel mixture, incorrect timing, or misfiring spark plugs. Any of these conditions could lead to a catalytic converter failure or worse. Any fuel that leaves the combustion chamber unburned will enter the exhaust system and light-off when it reaches the catalytic converter. This can super-heat the converter and causes a melt down. Possible causes are an incorrect fuel mixture, incorrect timing, corroded spark plugs, a faulty oxygen sensor, sticking float, faulty fuel injector or a malfunctioning check valve. A discolored or blue shell is a sign of excessive heat AND THESE CONDITIONS ARE NOT COVERED BY WARRANTY



-Converters with “Blue-ing” shell not covered

-Converters that smell of fuel are not covered

Oil or Antifreeze in the Exhaust

Oil or antifreeze entering the exhaust system can block the air passages by **creating heavy carbon soot that coats the ceramic catalyst**. These heavy carbon deposits create two problems. First, the carbon deposits prevent the catalytic converter from reducing harmful emission. Second, the carbon deposits clog the pores in the ceramic catalyst and block exhaust flow, increasing backpressure and causing heat and exhaust to back up into the engine compartment. Your engine may actually draw burnt exhaust gasses back into the combustion chamber and dilute the efficiency of the next burn cycle. Possible causes are worn piston rings, faulty valve seals, failed gaskets or warped engine components.



-Converters covered in heavy carbon soot are not covered

Deteriorated Spark Plug or Spark Plug Wires

Spark plugs that don't fire or misfire cause unburned fuel to enter the exhaust system. The unburned fuel ignites inside the converter and could result in a partial or complete melt down of the ceramic catalyst. Spark plugs and spark plug wires should be checked regularly and replaced if damaged or if wires are worn or cracked.

Oxygen Sensor Malfunctioning & Replacement

An oxygen sensor failure can lead to incorrect readings of exhaust gasses. The faulty sensor can cause a too-rich or too-lean condition. Too rich and the catalyst can melt down. Too lean and the converter is unable to convert the hydrocarbons into safe elements and may not pass a state inspection. Once an oxygen sensor is spoiled, it must be replaced to ensure the vehicle computer is receiving proper information or the catalytic converter warranty is voided.



Road Damage or Broken Hangers

The ceramic catalyst inside a catalytic converter is made from a lightweight, thin-walled, fragile material. It is protected by a dense, insulating mat. This mat holds the catalyst in place and provides moderate protection against damage. However, rock or road debris striking the converter or improper or broken exhaust system support can cause a catalyst fracture. Possible causes of a catalyst fracture are road debris striking the converter, loose or broken hangers, potholes or off-road driving.



-Converters with road damage are not covered

-Converters altered during installation are not covered