



Loud Exhaust or Exhaust Leak — What It Usually Is

How real visits for an exhaust noise ended at independent shops across the US — the part actually replaced, how often, and what it cost when it was the only fix.

Exhaust component

The single most common outcome — nearly half of these visits when combined with the runner-up

Exhaust component **\$117 – \$476**

Muffler **\$116 – \$310**

typical cost when it was the only fix
(parts + labor)

THE FIX INVOLVED	SHARE OF THESE VISITS*	TYPICAL COST†	MEDIAN
Exhaust component	57.2%	\$117 – \$476	\$232
Muffler	19.7%	\$116 – \$310	\$191
Gasket / seal	14.7%	\$65 – \$444	\$188
Pipe / tube	13.1%	\$26 – \$196	\$65
Catalytic converter	7.6%	\$317 – \$975	\$567
Other, rarer causes	smaller shares — hangers, heat shields, manifold gaskets, catalytic converters	varies	—

*Share of visits whose repair involved this part; combined repairs count toward each part, so shares overlap and don't add to 100%.

†Middle half of real invoices when this was the only fix — parts + labor, all vehicle types.

WHICH ONE IS YOURS? LISTEN FIRST

- **Suddenly loud** — A dramatic overnight change usually means a rusted joint, a dropped muffler, or a split pipe — visible on a lift in minutes and often a modest weld or section repair.
- **Ticking on cold starts** — A tick that fades as the engine warms is the classic exhaust manifold leak — the metal seals its own crack as it expands.
- **Smell in the cabin** — Exhaust smell inside the car makes any leak an urgent fix — carbon monoxide is odorless and rides along with what you can smell.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SHOP

Expect a visual inspection on a lift — exhaust leaks and rattles are usually visible. A rusted flange or hanger is cheap; a muffler or pipe section moderate; a manifold or converter the expensive end. Ask whether a section can be welded rather than replaced — on an older vehicle it often can.

ABOUT THIS DATA · HOW TO USE THIS BRIEF

Vehicles **all makes and models, US fleet**

Data confidence **High** — *large sample, stable shares*

Records through **July 2026**, refreshed continuously

Source **paid invoices from independent US repair shops**

Take it to the shop. It tells you what the likely answers are and what each one should cost — so when the diagnosis comes back, you already know whether the number fits. Vehicle-specific price reports for the common fixes are on fixdozer.com.

NOT A DIAGNOSIS

This brief describes how other owners' visits for an exhaust noise ended. Your vehicle, its history and the shop's testing decide yours. FixDozer does not perform repairs and receives nothing from shops.