

# Used vehicle buyers' checklist

**Before you buy a used vehicle, use this checklist to help ensure you make an informed decision:**

- Research market values and safety features online.
- If buying from a licensed car dealer, check their business record with the Better Business Bureau.
- Ask to see the original vehicle registration from the seller.
- Check that the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the vehicle registration is the same as the VIN plate and decals on the car, and that the VIN plate and decals haven't been tampered with.
- Check the vehicle status classification on the vehicle registration to determine how the vehicle has been classified. If there's an import code of either CANADIAN IMPORT or FOREIGN IMPORT, this shows if the vehicle was brought here from outside B.C.
- Check that the licence plate on the vehicle matches the licence plate number on the vehicle registration.
- Check that the vehicle make, model and colour match the description on the vehicle registration.
- Ask the seller for photo ID (if a private sale) and check it against the name on the vehicle registration.
- Get a home address, home and business phone number from the seller (again, if a private sale).
- Ask for service records and confirm the repairs or service by calling the repairer.
- Use the Canadian Police Information Centre website to run the VIN to see if it was a stolen vehicle.
- Confirm the vehicle's status (rebuilt, altered, salvage or normal) for free when you enter the VIN into our vehicle claims history report at [icbc.com](http://icbc.com).
- Get a vehicle history report. Our basic ICBC vehicle claims history report may include all you need to know. But if you want a more detailed report, have specific concerns about the vehicle's history or if its registration shows it's imported from outside B.C., get a CARFAX Verified BC report, which also includes Canada-wide lien information.
- Have a lien search done by:
  - some ServiceBC centres (in person only, \$10 per search)
  - the Personal Property Registry (written requests, \$10 per search)
  - private title services (search online for "Title Service" - cost varies by provider)
- Have the vehicle mechanically inspected and have the anti-theft and safety features confirmed.
- Be aware of flood-damaged vehicles, they can't be insured or licensed in B.C.
- Have the vehicle structurally inspected.
- Ensure that all documentation is completed correctly at the time of the sale:
  - Check the Vehicle Status area completed by the seller on the transfer/tax form and compare it to the vehicle status obtained directly from ICBC.
  - Check the Previous Vehicle Damage area filled out by the seller on the transfer/tax form to see if the vehicle has been in a crash.
  - Check that the odometer reading written on the transfer/tax form is accurate.
- Take the documents to an Autoplan broker to fill in their section of the Transfer/Tax form and finalize the transaction. Ask the seller to go with you if possible.



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