

Additional Resources

These are general guidelines.

For additional information go to:

www.dojmt.gov/driving

Buying or Selling a Vehicle?

When buying or selling a motor vehicle, every situation will be unique.

Questions about a specific circumstance?

◆ E-mail: dojmvdttitleinfo@mt.gov

◆ Call: 406-444-3661

For information on titling and registering a vehicle:

◆ www.dojmt.gov/driving

Vehicle Title & Registration

◆ Or contact your local county treasurer's office



Save Time - Go Online

Renew your vehicle registration online at:

<https://app.mt.gov/vrr>

Try other Motor Vehicle Division online services at:

www.dojmt.gov/driving

- ◆ Driver License Appointments
- ◆ Driver History Records
- ◆ Vehicle Search
- ◆ Forms and Manuals

Find us online!

[www.facebook.com/
MontanaMotorVehicleDivision](http://www.facebook.com/MontanaMotorVehicleDivision)

http://twitter.com/mt_mvdm



20,000 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$0.04 per copy, for a total cost of \$739.00 which includes \$739.00 for printing and \$0.00 for distribution.

Buying and Selling a Vehicle in Montana



www.dojmt.gov/driving

Buying a Vehicle

Buy From a Trustworthy Seller

Vehicles can be sold only through a licensed dealer or by the person whose name is on the title.

Test Drives & Mechanics

Take the vehicle on a test drive on the kinds of roads one uses the most. Ask the seller for permission to take the vehicle to a trusted mechanic.

Check for Liens Against the Vehicle

It is critical to have the security interest/lien resolved before buying the vehicle. The lien holder could have a legal claim to the vehicle if the previous owner does not pay the loan.

Get a Vehicle History Report

Diligent research before buying is worth the price. It could save hundreds of dollars in the future.

Beware of Odometer & VIN Fraud

Mileage must be disclosed on any vehicle newer than nine years. Compare the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the title with the VIN on the vehicle to ensure they match.

Leave the License Plates With the Seller

The buyer must purchase new license plates and title and register the vehicle at the county treasurer's office in the buyer's county of residence.

Keep a Written Record of the Purchase

This can be a photocopy of both sides of the reassigned title.

Buy Insurance

It is state law that vehicle owners must have motor vehicle liability insurance.

Selling a Vehicle

Legally Selling a Vehicle

The seller must be the owner listed on the Certificate of Title. *Every owner* listed on the title needs to sign over the title in front of a notary public.

Resolve Any Liens on the Vehicle

The seller should have the security interest or lien released before selling the vehicle.

Test Drives & Mechanics

Make sure the prospective buyer has a valid driver license and both parties agree on who will pay for a mechanical inspection.

Take the license plates off the vehicle before giving it to the buyer

The plates belong to the seller, not the vehicle. If the seller does not remove the plates, the seller may be liable for any parking or traffic violations that happen after the sale.

Keep a Written Record of the Sale

This can be a photocopy of both sides of the reassigned title.

Forms that might be needed:

- ◆ MV1 Application for Certificate of Title for a Motor Vehicle
- ◆ MV7 Application for Replacement Certificate of Title
- ◆ MV24 Bill of Sale
- ◆ MV37A Release of Security Interest or Lien

Forms are free online: <https://dojmt.gov/driving/vehicle-title-registration-forms>

Title Tips

Replace a Missing Title

To sell a vehicle, one must have the title in possession. Without the title, the owner of record must apply for a replacement from the state where the vehicle was last titled.

Filling out the title to sign it over to the buyer:

- ◆ All fields must be completed in blue or black ink only.
- ◆ White-out or attempts to erase or scratch out entries void the title.
- ◆ Sellers need to complete the odometer (mileage) disclosure for any vehicle newer than nine years.
- ◆ **All owners** must sign the title in front of a notary public.
- ◆ The buyer's name and address must be written on the title.
- ◆ The person who signs as the buyer must be the same buyer written on the title.

Transferring Ownership

As the buyer, one has 40 days from the sale date to transfer vehicle ownership. This is done by applying for the title and registering the vehicle at the county treasurer's office in the buyer's county of residence.

For additional information, go online to:

www.dojmt.gov/driving