

## Additional Resources

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These are general guidelines.

For additional information, go online to:

[www.dojmt.gov/driving](http://www.dojmt.gov/driving) >  
**Buying or Selling a Vehicle**

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

If you have a question about a specific circumstance:

- ◆ Email  
[dojmvdttitleinfo@mt.gov](mailto:dojmvdttitleinfo@mt.gov)
- ◆ Call  
(406) 444-3661

For information on titling and registering your vehicle:

- ◆ [www.dojmt.gov/driving](http://www.dojmt.gov/driving) >  
Vehicle Title & Registration
- ◆ Or contact your County Treasurer's office

## Save Time - Go Online

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**Renew your vehicle registration online at:**

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

Try other Motor Vehicle Division online services at:

[www.dojmt.gov/driving](http://www.dojmt.gov/driving)

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



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## Buying and Selling a Vehicle in Montana

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[www.dojmt.gov/driving](http://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 a test drive on the kinds of roads you plan on using the most. Ask the seller if you can take the vehicle to a mechanic of your choice.

### Check for Liens Against the Vehicle

It's critical to have the security interest/lien resolved before buying the vehicle because the lien holder could have a legal claim to your vehicle if the previous owner doesn't pay the loan.

### Get a Vehicle History Report

Diligent research before buying is worth the price when it could save you 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. They must match.

### Leave the License Plates With the Seller

You must buy new license plates when you title and register your vehicle at the County Treasurer's office in your county of residence.

### Keep a Written Record of Your Purchase

This can be a photocopy of the reassigned title or a document that lists the vehicle year, make, and VIN; seller's name, address, driver license number, and signature; and purchase price and sale date.

### Buy Insurance

It's state law that you must have motor vehicle liability insurance.

## Selling a Vehicle

### Legally Selling the Vehicle

You must be the owner listed on the Certificate of Title. *Every owner* listed on the title needs to sign over the title to the buyer.

### Resolve Any Liens on the Vehicle

If you owe money on the vehicle, have the security interest/lien released before selling the vehicle.

### Test Drives & Mechanics

Make sure the prospective buyer has a driver license and that you agree on who will pay for the mechanic's inspection.

### Take your license plates off the vehicle before giving it to the buyer.

The plates belong to you, not the vehicle. If you don't remove the plates, you 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 the reassigned title or a document that lists the vehicle year, make, and VIN; buyer's name, address, driver license number, and signature; and purchase price and sale date.

### Forms You Might Need

- ◆ 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:** [dojmt.gov/driving](http://dojmt.gov/driving) > Forms & Manuals: Vehicle Title & Registration

## Title Tips

### Replace a Missing Title

To sell your vehicle, you must have the title in your possession. If you don't, you or the owner of record need to 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, you have 40 days from the sale date to transfer vehicle ownership to you. This is done by applying for the title to and registering the vehicle at the County Treasurer's office in your county of residence.