

# Top 10 Title & Registration Tips to Avoid Trouble

## Get a NMVTIS Vehicle History Report before you buy.

Protect yourself from internet sales and individuals selling vehicles without telling you it has been salvaged, flood damaged or junk. Vehicles with these brands can be worth much less than their listed sales price, and worse can yet, can be unsafe. Obtain a NMVTIS (National Motor Vehicle Information System) history report at [vehiclehistory.org](http://vehiclehistory.org).

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## Buying a vehicle? Get the title

If you do not obtain a title from a seller, it will be difficult to obtain a title in your name. Sellers are required to provide you with a title that has been properly signed over to the purchaser. If a seller has a loan on the vehicle, the lienholder likely holds the title and will not release it unless the loan has been paid off.

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## Report any change of address

If you move, report your change of address to any county Assessors DMV office or online [here](#) within 30 days of moving. This ensures you won't miss important notifications such as registration renewal reminders or driver's licensing notices.

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## Title before selling

It is illegal to acquire and resell a vehicle without titling in your name unless you have a dealer's license. Transferring without titling also does not relieve you of your obligation to pay tax on your purchase. Avoid fines or worse- get it titled.

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## File a Release of Liability (ROL)

Always file a release of liability when you sell your vehicle. This will help protect you from liability for incidents that occur after the vehicle has left your hands. Examples of such liability include property damage and injury/death caused by hit and runs committed in your sold vehicle, accrued parking tickets, towing, repair, and storage charges should the purchaser fail to title and register properly. The ROL is the bottom tear off portion of your title or can be filed online, [here](#).

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### **Keep your license plates when selling a vehicle**

The license plates you display on your vehicle is yours to keep\*. When you sell/transfer a vehicle, take the plates off your vehicle. By keeping your plates, you can transfer them to another vehicle and receive credit for any remaining time on your registration. This also helps eliminate any confusion for the purchaser.

\* This excludes black and white restricted plates.

### **Always list the true selling price of the vehicle**

It is a felony to list a false selling price on a bill of sale or title. The DMV and State Tax Commission can look up the fair market value of a vehicle and compare. Any other false statements made on vehicle documents is also considered a felony that can result in fines or imprisonment.



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### **Bring proper identification to the county DMV**

If you are a current Idaho resident, bring your Idaho driver's license or ID card. If you are new to Idaho, bring your out of state driver's license. Those new to Idaho or who do not have a state credential will need their social security number (SSN) or your individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). Bring the same information for each person that will appear on the title and registration. Business entities will need to provide their employer identification number (EIN). If you do have these items, please call your local county assessor or 208-334-8663 for instructions.

### **Signing the title for someone else? Provide the authorizing document**

If an individual signs for someone else, the document authorizing the signature must be provided when you apply for title. For example, if you sign off a title on behalf of the owner, you need to provide the document that authorizes you to do so, such as a power of attorney. A title will not be issued until either an original, or a certified or verified copy of the authorizing document has been submitted.



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### **Use the duplicate title if one has been issued**

If a duplicate title has been issued because the original was lost, mutilated or illegible the original title is void. If you have a duplicate title for your vehicle and find the original, destroy the original. If you lose the duplicate title you will need to apply for another one.