



Georgia Used Car Buyer's Paperwork Checklist

Use this checklist to prepare for buying a used vehicle from a private seller in Georgia. Confirm the latest requirements with the Georgia Department of Revenue — Motor Vehicle Division before completing your transaction.

QUICK ANSWER

Georgia buyers apply for title and pay the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) at the county tag office within 30 days of purchase. TAVT is a one-time tax generally based on the vehicle's fair market value that replaces annual sales tax in Georgia — check the GA DOR Motor Vehicle Division website for the current rate and any exemptions. Bring the signed title, proof of Georgia insurance, photo ID, and payment.

KEY FACTS

State	Georgia
Agency	Georgia Department of Revenue — Motor Vehicle Division
Process	See official source
Notary required	No
Bill of sale	Conditional
Odometer disclosure	Yes
Filing deadline	30 days
Last reviewed	May 10, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

NOTARY No	BILL OF SALE Conditional	ODOMETER Yes	INSPECTION Not specified
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IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Within 30 days
Apply for title and pay TAVT at county tag office within 30 days of purchase

PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

Buyer checklist

- ☐ **Signed title from seller** **REQUIRED**
The seller must have signed the title over to you. Check that the odometer reading is noted.
- ☐ **Bill of sale** **RECOMMENDED**
Proof of purchase with VIN, price, and both parties' information.
- ☐ **Government-issued photo ID** **REQUIRED**
Required when submitting title transfer paperwork.
- ☐ **Payment for title transfer fees** **REQUIRED**
Fees vary by state. Check your state's official DMV fee schedule.
- ☐ **Proof of insurance** **REQUIRED**
Most states require proof of minimum liability insurance before issuing plates.
- ☐ **Sales tax payment** **CONDITIONAL**
Sales or use tax is typically due when registering the vehicle. Rate and basis vary by state.

Required forms

- ☐ **Signed title from seller** **REQUIRED**
The seller must sign the title over to you. Verify the VIN and odometer reading.
- ☐ **Title transfer application** **REQUIRED**
Form required to apply for a new title in your name. Requirements vary by state.



FEES

Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) — one-time tax paid by buyer (TAVT replaces sales tax in Georgia. Rate is based on fair market value — check the official source for the current rate.)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Notary: No — Notarization is generally not required for private vehicle purchases in Georgia.

Bill of sale: Conditional — Not required by law but recommended as proof of purchase.

Odometer disclosure: Yes — Seller must complete odometer disclosure on the title for vehicles under 10 years old.

Inspection: Not specified — Inspection requirements vary by state and vehicle type. Check your state agency.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 Verify the title is clear of liens and seller's name matches the title.
- 2 Have seller sign the back of the title and complete odometer disclosure.
- 3 Obtain a bill of sale with VIN, purchase price, date, and both parties' information.
- 4 Visit the county tag office within 30 days to apply for title and pay TAVT.
- 5 Bring the signed title, proof of Georgia insurance, photo ID, and payment for TAVT and title/registration fees.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Missing the 30-day deadline for title application.
- Not budgeting for the Title Ad Valorem Tax — it can be a significant amount.
- Accepting a title with the wrong seller name or VIN errors.
- Not verifying liens before purchase.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

GA DOR — Motor Vehicle Division

<https://mvd.dor.georgia.gov>

GA DOR — TAVT Information

<https://mvd.dor.georgia.gov/motor-vehicle/title-ad-valorem-tax-tavt>