



Registering an Out-of-State Vehicle in Illinois

Moving to Illinois or buying a vehicle titled in another state? Use this checklist to register your out-of-state vehicle through the Illinois Secretary of State — Vehicle Services.

QUICK ANSWER

New Illinois residents must register their out-of-state vehicle at an Illinois Secretary of State facility within 30 days of establishing residency. If you live in one of the Chicago metro counties (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, or Will), an emissions test is generally required before registration. Bring your out-of-state title, proof of Illinois insurance, and proof of Illinois residency.

KEY FACTS

State	Illinois
Agency	Illinois Secretary of State — Vehicle Services
Process	See official source
Notary required	Not specified
Bill of sale	Not specified
Odometer disclosure	Not specified
Filing deadline	30 days
Last reviewed	May 10, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

NOTARY
Not specified

BILL OF SALE
Not specified

ODOMETER
Not specified

INSPECTION
Conditional

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Within 30 days
Register within 30 days of establishing Illinois residence

PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

Required checklist

- ☐ **Out-of-state title (properly assigned to you, if purchased)** **REQUIRED**
The existing title from the other state. If you purchased the vehicle, it must be signed over to you.
- ☐ **Government-issued photo ID (current Illinois address)** **REQUIRED**
Most states require proof of residency to register a vehicle.
- ☐ **Proof of Illinois address** **REQUIRED**
Utility bill, lease agreement, or other proof of current residency.
- ☐ **Proof of insurance meeting Illinois minimum requirements** **REQUIRED**
Insurance from an insurer licensed in Illinois.
- ☐ **Odometer disclosure statement** **CONDITIONAL**
Required if the vehicle is under 10 years old.
- ☐ **VIN verification (may be required)** **CONDITIONAL**
Some states require a physical VIN inspection by law enforcement or a DMV inspector.
- ☐ **Safety and/or emissions inspection (if required)** **CONDITIONAL**
Check whether your state requires an inspection before registration.
- ☐ **Payment for title and registration fees** **REQUIRED**

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS



Inspection: Conditional — No statewide safety inspection required. However, emissions testing is required in the Chicago metro area (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties) before registration.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 If in a Chicago metro county, pass an emissions test before registering.
- 2 Submit the out-of-state title, proof of insurance, proof of IL residency, and fees to an IL SOS facility.
- 3 File Form RUT-50 or the appropriate use tax form if a private-party purchase.
- 4 Obtain new Illinois plates (out-of-state plates are surrendered).

COMMON MISTAKES

- Skipping emissions testing in Chicago metro counties — your registration will be rejected.
- Waiting beyond 30 days after moving to Illinois.
- Not bringing proof of Illinois residency to the SOS facility.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

IL SOS — Vehicle Services

<https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/vehicles/home.html>

IL EPA — Vehicle Emissions Testing

<https://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/air-quality/mobile-sources/vehicle-emissions-testing/index>