



Registering an Out-of-State Vehicle in Iowa

Moving to Iowa or buying a vehicle titled in another state? Use this checklist to register your out-of-state vehicle through the Iowa Motor Vehicle Division.

KEY FACTS

State	Iowa
Agency	Iowa Motor Vehicle Division
Process	See official source
Notary required	Not specified
Bill of sale	Not specified
Odometer disclosure	Not specified
Last reviewed	January 1, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

NOTARY Not specified	BILL OF SALE Not specified	ODOMETER Not specified	INSPECTION Not specified
-------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------

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 Iowa address)** **REQUIRED**
Most states require proof of residency to register a vehicle.
- ☐ **Proof of Iowa address** **REQUIRED**
Utility bill, lease agreement, or other proof of current residency.
- ☐ **Proof of insurance meeting Iowa minimum requirements** **REQUIRED**
Insurance from an insurer licensed in Iowa.
- ☐ **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: Not specified — Inspection requirements vary by state. Check with the official state agency.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 Establish residency in Iowa (get a local address if you haven't).
- 2 Obtain the out-of-state title (properly assigned to you, if purchased).
- 3 Check whether Iowa requires a VIN verification or safety/emissions inspection.
- 4 Complete any required inspections.
- 5 Submit the title, application, ID, proof of insurance, and fees to the state motor vehicle agency.
- 6 Surrender the out-of-state plates if required.
- 7 Receive your new Iowa title and registration.

COMMON MISTAKES



-
- Not completing a required inspection before going to the DMV.
 - Forgetting to update your driver's license to the new state (usually required within 30–60 days of moving).
 - Paying out-of-state registration while also owing taxes in the new state.
 - Bringing an incomplete title (missing buyer signature, odometer reading, etc.).

OFFICIAL SOURCES

Iowa Motor Vehicle Division
<https://iowadot.gov/mvd>