



Louisiana Used Car Buyer's Paperwork Checklist

Use this checklist to prepare for buying a used vehicle from a private seller in Louisiana. Confirm the latest requirements with the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) before completing your transaction.

KEY FACTS

State	Louisiana
Agency	Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV)
Process	See official source
Notary required	Yes
Bill of sale	Yes
Odometer disclosure	Yes
Filing deadline	40 days
Last reviewed	May 13, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

NOTARY Yes	BILL OF SALE Yes	ODOMETER Yes	INSPECTION Conditional
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IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Within 40 days

Buyer must submit the title application to the OMV within 40 days of purchase. Motor vehicle sales tax is also due by the 40th day.

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.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Notary: Yes — Louisiana law requires the seller's signature on the title assignment to be made in the presence of a notary (who subscribes their name), or alternatively in the presence of two witnesses who sign and acknowledge the document.

Bill of sale: Yes — A notarized bill of sale is required as part of the title application package in Louisiana.

Odometer disclosure: Yes — Required by federal law for vehicles under 10 years old.



Inspection: Conditional — Louisiana no longer requires routine safety inspection stickers for private passenger vehicles. Emissions inspection is required only in specific parishes (East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Ascension, Livingston, and Iberville).

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 Run a vehicle history report (e.g., CARFAX or NMVTIS) before purchase.
- 2 Verify the seller's name matches the name on the title.
- 3 Ensure the title is free of liens or confirm the lien will be resolved.
- 4 Have the seller sign the title over to you and complete odometer disclosure.
- 5 Obtain a bill of sale from the seller.
- 6 Submit the signed title, application, fees, and proof of insurance to your state DMV.
- 7 Pay any applicable sales tax.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Not verifying that the seller is the titled owner.
- Failing to check for outstanding liens before purchase.
- Missing the deadline to register the vehicle after purchase.
- Not getting a bill of sale.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

Louisiana OMV — Title and Registration
<https://expresslane.la.gov/omv/vehicles/title-and-registration/>
Louisiana OMV
<https://www.expresslane.org>