



Registering an Out-of-State Vehicle in Michigan

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

QUICK ANSWER

New Michigan residents must register their vehicle at a Michigan Secretary of State (SOS) branch office within 30 days of establishing residency. If you live in Wayne, Macomb, or Oakland County, an Enhanced Vehicle Inspection (emissions test) is generally required before registration. Bring your out-of-state title, proof of Michigan insurance, proof of Michigan address, and photo ID.

KEY FACTS

State	Michigan
Agency	Michigan 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 Michigan 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 Michigan address)** **REQUIRED**
Most states require proof of residency to register a vehicle.
- ☐ **Proof of Michigan address** **REQUIRED**
Utility bill, lease agreement, or other proof of current residency.
- ☐ **Proof of insurance meeting Michigan minimum requirements** **REQUIRED**
Insurance from an insurer licensed in Michigan.
- ☐ **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. However, Enhanced Vehicle Inspection (emissions) is required in Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland counties before registration.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 If in SE Michigan, complete an Enhanced Vehicle Inspection (emissions test) before registering.
- 2 Bring the out-of-state title, proof of Michigan insurance, proof of MI address, and photo ID to an SOS branch.
- 3 Apply for a Michigan title at the SOS branch office.
- 4 Pay title fee, registration fee, and applicable Michigan use tax if applicable — verify current rate with Michigan SOS.
- 5 Obtain new Michigan license plates — the previous state's plates are surrendered.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Forgetting emissions testing in SE Michigan counties before registration.
- Waiting beyond 30 days after establishing Michigan residence.
- Not bringing proof of Michigan insurance to the SOS branch.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

Michigan SOS — Titles and Registration
<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/vehicles/title-registration>

Michigan SOS — Branch Offices
<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/branch-locations>

Michigan Secretary of State
<https://www.michigan.gov/sos>