



Mississippi Used Car Buyer's Paperwork Checklist

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

KEY FACTS

State	Mississippi
Agency	Mississippi Department of Revenue — Motor Vehicle Licensing Bureau
Process	See official source
Notary required	Conditional
Bill of sale	Conditional
Odometer disclosure	Yes
Filing deadline	30 days
Last reviewed	May 13, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

NOTARY Conditional	BILL OF SALE Conditional	ODOMETER Yes	INSPECTION No
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IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Within 30 days

Buyer must register the vehicle within 30 business days of purchase at the county Tax Collector's office.

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: Conditional — Official state guidance is inconsistent; many county tax collector offices treat the seller's title signature as requiring notarization in practice. Verify with your county tax collector before completing the transaction.

Bill of sale: Conditional — A bill of sale is required when the vehicle was purchased from a non-title state or when no certificate of title exists. For a standard Mississippi-titled vehicle, the assigned title is the transfer document.



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

Inspection: No — Mississippi does not require a safety inspection or emissions test for title transfer in a private sale. No statewide emissions testing program exists.

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

Mississippi DOR — Motor Vehicle Titles

<https://www.dor.ms.gov/motor-vehicle-titles>

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