



New Hampshire Used Car Buyer's Paperwork Checklist

Use this checklist to prepare for buying a used vehicle from a private seller in New Hampshire. Confirm the latest requirements with the New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles before completing your transaction.

KEY FACTS

State	New Hampshire
Agency	New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles
Process	See official source
Notary required	No
Bill of sale	Yes
Odometer disclosure	Yes
Filing deadline	20 days
Last reviewed	May 13, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

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

Within 20 days

All buyers must apply for a new title within 20 days of the date of sale at their local town or city clerk'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: No — New Hampshire does not require notarization for a standard private-party title transfer. The seller signs the title over to the buyer without a notary.

Bill of sale: Yes — A bill of sale is required in New Hampshire and must include the date of sale, buyer's name, signature, and legal address. The DMV provides Form TDMV 22A as an optional standard form.



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

Inspection: No — The seller is not required to provide an inspection certificate at the time of sale. The buyer must obtain a safety/emissions inspection to register the vehicle.

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

New Hampshire DMV — Buying a Vehicle (Private Party)

<https://www.dmv.nh.gov/tabbed-content/buying-vehicle-private-party>

New Hampshire DMV

<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/dmv/>