



## Registering an Out-of-State Vehicle in Ohio

Moving to Ohio or buying a vehicle titled in another state? Use this checklist to register your out-of-state vehicle through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).

### QUICK ANSWER

New Ohio residents must register their vehicle within 30 days of establishing Ohio residency. If you live in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, or Summit county, an E-Check emissions test is required before registration. Obtain an Ohio title at the County Clerk of Courts first, then register the vehicle at any Ohio BMV office.

### KEY FACTS

|                     |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| State               | Ohio                                |
| Agency              | Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) |
| 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 Ohio 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 Ohio address)** **REQUIRED**  
Most states require proof of residency to register a vehicle.
- ☐ **Proof of Ohio address** **REQUIRED**  
Utility bill, lease agreement, or other proof of current residency.
- ☐ **Proof of insurance meeting Ohio minimum requirements** **REQUIRED**  
Insurance from an insurer licensed in Ohio.
- ☐ **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 required for registration. However, E-Check (emissions) testing is required in some counties (Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Summit) before registration.

### STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 If in an E-Check county, pass an emissions test before registering.
- 2 Obtain an Ohio title by presenting the out-of-state title at the County Clerk of Courts.
- 3 Pay Ohio title fee and any applicable sales tax.
- 4 Register the vehicle and obtain Ohio plates.

### COMMON MISTAKES

- Forgetting E-Check emissions testing if you live in an affected county.
- Going to the BMV for title work — title transfers go through the County Clerk of Courts.
- Waiting beyond 30 days after moving to Ohio.

### OFFICIAL SOURCES

**Ohio BMV — Vehicle Registration**

<https://www.bmv.ohio.gov/registration-titles.aspx>

**Ohio E-Check Program**

<https://www.echeck.org>

**Ohio BMV**

<https://www.bmv.ohio.gov>