



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>