



Registering an Out-of-State Vehicle in Pennsylvania

Moving to Pennsylvania or buying a vehicle titled in another state? Use this checklist to register your out-of-state vehicle through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

QUICK ANSWER

New Pennsylvania residents must register their vehicle at a PennDOT Driver License Center or authorized agent within 20 days of establishing residency. Pennsylvania generally requires a state safety inspection and, in some counties, an emissions inspection before registration. Complete Form MV-4ST and bring your out-of-state title, proof of PA insurance, and proof of residency.

KEY FACTS

State	Pennsylvania
Agency	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Process	See official source
Notary required	Not specified
Bill of sale	Not specified
Odometer disclosure	Not specified
Filing deadline	20 days
Last reviewed	May 10, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

NOTARY Not specified	BILL OF SALE Not specified	ODOMETER Not specified	INSPECTION Yes
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IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Within 20 days
Register within 20 days of establishing Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania address)** **REQUIRED**
Most states require proof of residency to register a vehicle.
- ☐ **Proof of Pennsylvania address** **REQUIRED**
Utility bill, lease agreement, or other proof of current residency.
- ☐ **Proof of insurance meeting Pennsylvania minimum requirements** **REQUIRED**
Insurance from an insurer licensed in Pennsylvania.
- ☐ **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: Yes — Pennsylvania generally requires a state safety inspection and, in some counties, an emissions inspection. Pass a PA inspection before registration.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 Obtain the out-of-state title (properly assigned to you).
- 2 Pass a Pennsylvania safety inspection (and emissions inspection in required counties).
- 3 Complete Form MV-4ST (Vehicle Sales and Use Tax Return/Application for Registration).
- 4 Submit MV-4ST, title, proof of PA insurance, proof of residency, inspection certificate, and fees to a PennDOT office.
- 5 Obtain new Pennsylvania plates — out-of-state plates are surrendered.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Not completing a PA safety inspection before attempting to register.
- Waiting beyond 20 days after moving to Pennsylvania.
- Not bringing proof of PA insurance to the registration appointment.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

PennDOT — Vehicle Registration

<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/TravelInPA/Pages/Motor-Vehicle-Registration.aspx>

PennDOT — Buying and Selling a Vehicle

<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/TravelInPA/Pages/Buying-and-Selling-a-Vehicle.aspx>

PennDOT

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