



Registering an Out-of-State Vehicle in Texas

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

QUICK ANSWER

New Texas residents must register their vehicle within 30 days of establishing Texas residency or accepting employment. A Texas safety inspection from a state-approved station is required before you can complete registration. Submit the out-of-state title, Form 130-U, proof of Texas insurance, and fees to the county tax assessor-collector.

KEY FACTS

State	Texas
Agency	Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV)
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
Yes

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Within 30 days
Register within 30 days of establishing Texas residence or employment

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 Texas address)** **REQUIRED**
Most states require proof of residency to register a vehicle.
- ☐ **Proof of Texas address** **REQUIRED**
Utility bill, lease agreement, or other proof of current residency.
- ☐ **Proof of insurance meeting Texas minimum requirements** **REQUIRED**
Insurance from an insurer licensed in Texas.
- ☐ **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 — Texas requires an annual safety inspection. Vehicles from other states must pass a Texas safety inspection before registration.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 Obtain a Texas safety inspection from a state-approved inspection station.
- 2 Submit the out-of-state title, Form 130-U, proof of Texas insurance, and inspection certificate to the county tax office.
- 3 Pay title fee (\$33), registration fee, and any applicable sales tax.
- 4 Surrender out-of-state plates upon request.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Not getting a Texas safety inspection before visiting the tax office.
- Waiting beyond 30 days after moving — late fees apply.
- Not updating your driver's license to Texas within 90 days of moving.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

TxDMV — Register Your Vehicle

<https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/register-your-vehicle>

TxDMV — New to Texas

<https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/new-to-texas>

Texas DMV

<https://www.txdmv.gov>

TxDMV Forms

<https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/buying-or-selling-a-vehicle>