



Texas Car Title Transfer Checklist

Transferring a vehicle title in Texas runs through your local county tax assessor-collector, not directly through TxDMV. The new owner must apply for a Texas Certificate of Title within 30 days of the date of sale using Form 130-U, accompanied by the signed title, proof of Texas liability insurance, photo ID, and payment for the title application fee plus 6.25% motor vehicle sales tax. Tax is calculated on the greater of the purchase price or the Standard Presumptive Value (SPV) the state publishes for that vehicle, so paying below SPV does not lower the tax owed. Gift transfers between qualifying family members use the \$10 gift tax in place of sales tax and require Form 14-317.

QUICK ANSWER

Texas title transfers are processed at the county tax assessor-collector's office, not at TxDMV. Submit Form 130-U, the signed title, proof of Texas insurance, and payment within 30 days of purchase. The title application fee is \$33, plus 6.25% motor vehicle sales tax on the sale price or Standard Presumptive Value.

KEY FACTS

State	Texas
Agency	Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV)
Process	In person
Notary required	No
Bill of sale	Conditional
Odometer disclosure	Yes
Filing deadline	30 days
Last reviewed	May 21, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

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

Within 30 days

Apply for the Texas title at the county tax assessor-collector within 30 days of the date of sale

Deadline

Delinquent transfer penalty after 30 days TxDMV assesses a delinquent transfer penalty when the title application is filed more than 30 days after the sale. Exact penalty amount is set by statute (sourceNeeded — confirm with your county tax office).

Within 30 days

Sellers should file the Vehicle Transfer Notification (Form VTR-346) within 30 days of sale Optional but strongly recommended — removes seller liability for tolls, parking citations, and red-light camera violations after the sale.

PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

Buyer checklist

- ☐ **Signed title from seller with odometer disclosed** **REQUIRED**
Check for whiteout or alterations — any correction may void the title.
- ☐ **Completed Form 130-U** **REQUIRED**
[Form 130-U](#)
Application for Texas Certificate of Title — fill in buyer info, vehicle info, sale price, and date.
- ☐ **Government-issued photo ID** **REQUIRED**
- ☐ **Proof of Texas liability insurance** **REQUIRED**
Insurance must be in the buyer's name on a policy that meets Texas minimum limits.



- ☐ **Title application fee + sales tax payment** **REQUIRED**
\$33 title fee plus 6.25% motor vehicle sales tax (calculated on price or SPV, whichever is higher).
- ☐ **Form 14-317 (only for qualifying family gift transfers)** **CONDITIONAL**
[Form 14-317](#)
Required to claim the \$10 gift tax in place of sales tax.
- ☐ **Emissions inspection (only in 17 designated counties)** **CONDITIONAL**
Required for most non-commercial vehicles in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, and El Paso metro counties.

Seller checklist

- ☐ **Signed Texas title (back signed in seller's section, odometer disclosed)** **REQUIRED**
Sign exactly as your name appears on the front of the title.
- ☐ **Completed seller portion of Form 130-U** **REQUIRED**
Provide a copy to the buyer along with the signed title.
- ☐ **Lien release letter from lender (if applicable)** **CONDITIONAL**
If there was a loan on the vehicle, the lienholder must release the lien before transfer. The release is a separate document from the title.
- ☐ **File Vehicle Transfer Notification VTR-346 within 30 days** **RECOMMENDED**
[Form VTR-346](#)
Submit online via txdmv.gov to remove your liability for the vehicle after the sale.

Required forms

- ☐ **Form 130-U — Application for Texas Title and/or Registration** **REQUIRED**
[Form 130-U](#)
The primary title application. Submitted with the signed title to the county tax assessor-collector.
- ☐ **VTR-130-UIF — Instructions for Form 130-U** **RECOMMENDED**
[Form VTR-130-UIF](#)
Official instructions for completing Form 130-U.
- ☐ **Form 14-317 — Affidavit of Motor Vehicle Gift Transfer** **CONDITIONAL**
[Form 14-317](#)
Required when the vehicle is being gifted to a spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, or a qualifying 501(c)(3) — qualifies the transfer for the \$10 gift tax in lieu of sales tax.
- ☐ **VTR-262 — Affidavit of Heirship for a Motor Vehicle** **CONDITIONAL**
[Form VTR-262](#)
Used to transfer a vehicle from a deceased owner without going through probate, when the deceased had no will and the vehicle's value qualifies.
- ☐ **VTR-346 — Vehicle Transfer Notification** **RECOMMENDED**
[Form VTR-346](#)
Seller-protective filing. Reports the sale to TxDMV so the seller is not liable for traffic violations or tolls after the sale; submit online or by mail within 30 days.

FEES

\$33 — Title application fee (Paid at the county tax assessor-collector. County may add a small processing fee (sourceNeeded — varies by county).)

6.25% of price or SPV (whichever is higher) — Motor vehicle sales tax (Tax is calculated on the Standard Presumptive Value when the sale price is below SPV. New residents pay a \$90 new-resident-use tax in place of sales tax if the vehicle was titled in their name in another state.)

\$10 — Gift tax (in lieu of sales tax) (Applies only to qualifying family gifts with Form 14-317. Outside that, sales tax applies.)

sourceNeeded — **typically \$50.75 plus local fees for standard passenger vehicles** — Registration fee (concurrent) (Title transfer is normally completed alongside registration. Confirm current fee with your county tax office.)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Notary: No — Notarization is not required for standard Texas title transfers. The seller's signature on the back of the title and on Form 130-U is sufficient.

Bill of sale: Conditional — Texas uses Form 130-U as the primary title application document; a separate bill of sale is not required by statute but is strongly recommended to document the sale price, date, and odometer reading, and helps if a dispute arises later.

Odometer disclosure: Yes — Required by federal law for vehicles less than 10 years old (under 16,000 lbs). The disclosure is completed on the back of the title and also on Form 130-U.

Inspection: Conditional — Texas eliminated the statewide annual safety inspection for passenger vehicles starting January 1, 2025, but emissions testing is still required in 17 designated counties (the Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, and El Paso metro areas) for most non-commercial vehicles. Confirm whether your county requires emissions before transfer.



Plates: Texas plates stay with the seller, not the vehicle. The seller removes their plates before sale; the buyer registers the vehicle and obtains new Texas plates (or transfers eligible specialty plates) at the county tax office during title application.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 Confirm the seller is the titled owner of record on the front of the Texas title — names must match exactly.
- 2 Check the title for any liens — outstanding liens must be released by the lender before transfer.
- 3 Seller signs the back of the title in the seller's signature section and completes the odometer disclosure.
- 4 Seller and buyer complete Form 130-U (Application for Texas Title and/or Registration) together — fill in vehicle info, both parties' info, sale price, and date.
- 5 Seller gives the buyer the signed title and a copy of Form 130-U; seller also files VTR-346 online within 30 days.
- 6 Buyer obtains Texas liability insurance in the buyer's name before visiting the county tax office.
- 7 If the vehicle is in one of the 17 emissions counties, complete emissions testing first.
- 8 Buyer takes Form 130-U, signed title, photo ID, proof of insurance, and payment to the county tax assessor-collector within 30 days.
- 9 Buyer pays the \$33 title fee and 6.25% motor vehicle sales tax (calculated on price or SPV, whichever is higher).
- 10 TxDMV processes the application — the new title is typically mailed within ~20 business days.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Submitting Form 130-U to a TxDMV regional office — title applications must go through the county tax assessor-collector, not TxDMV directly.
- Missing the 30-day filing deadline — delinquent transfer penalties apply.
- Paying sales tax on a below-SPV price — Texas calculates tax on the greater of price or SPV, so listing a low price does not reduce tax owed.
- Seller skipping the VTR-346 Vehicle Transfer Notification — leaves the seller exposed to toll bills, parking tickets, and red-light camera violations until the buyer registers.
- Using whiteout, scratch-outs, or corrections on the title — any alteration may void the title and require a corrected title before transfer.
- Forgetting Form 14-317 on a family gift transfer — without it, the transfer is taxed at 6.25% instead of the \$10 gift tax.
- Buyer arriving at the tax office without Texas-based liability insurance — registration cannot complete without it.
- Inherited-vehicle transfers attempted without Form VTR-262 when the deceased left no will — the county will reject the application.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

TxDMV — Title Transfers

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

TxDMV — Motorist Forms (130-U, VTR-262, VTR-346, VTR-34)

<https://www.txdmv.gov/forms>

Texas Comptroller — Form 14-317 Affidavit of Motor Vehicle Gift Transfer

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/forms/14-317.pdf>

Texas Comptroller — Motor Vehicle Tax

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/motor-vehicle/>

Texas DMV

<https://www.txdmv.gov>