



Registering an Out-of-State Vehicle in Virginia

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

QUICK ANSWER

New Virginia residents generally must title and register their vehicle with the Virginia DMV soon after establishing residency. You'll typically need the out-of-state title, proof of Virginia insurance, a Virginia safety inspection (plus an emissions inspection in Northern Virginia), and payment of the 4.15% Motor Vehicle Sales and Use Tax if the vehicle wasn't previously titled in Virginia. Confirm the current grace period and requirements with the Virginia DMV.

KEY FACTS

State	Virginia
Agency	Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
Process	See official source
Notary required	Not specified
Bill of sale	Not specified
Odometer disclosure	Not specified
Last reviewed	July 6, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE

NOTARY Not specified	BILL OF SALE Not specified	ODOMETER Not specified	INSPECTION Conditional
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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 Virginia address)** **REQUIRED**
Most states require proof of residency to register a vehicle.
- ☐ **Proof of Virginia address** **REQUIRED**
Utility bill, lease agreement, or other proof of current residency.
- ☐ **Proof of insurance meeting Virginia minimum requirements** **REQUIRED**
Insurance from an insurer licensed in Virginia.
- ☐ **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 — Virginia requires an annual safety inspection for all vehicles, and an emissions inspection in Northern Virginia localities, before the vehicle can be registered and driven.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

- 1 Establish residency in Virginia (get a local address if you haven't).
- 2 Obtain the out-of-state title (properly assigned to you, if purchased).



- 3 Check whether Virginia requires a VIN verification or safety/emissions inspection.
- 4 Complete any required inspections.
- 5 Submit the title, application, ID, proof of insurance, and fees to the state motor vehicle agency.
- 6 Surrender the out-of-state plates if required.
- 7 Receive your new Virginia title and registration.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Skipping the required Virginia safety inspection before registering.
- Overlooking the Northern Virginia emissions requirement if you move to that region.
- Assuming no tax is due — the 4.15% Sales and Use Tax can apply if the vehicle wasn't previously titled in Virginia.
- Waiting too long after establishing residency — confirm the current new-resident window with the Virginia DMV.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

Virginia DMV — Vehicle Registration

<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles/registration>

Virginia DMV

<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov>