



Registering an Out-of-State Vehicle in Washington

Moving to Washington or buying a vehicle titled in another state? Use this checklist to register your out-of-state vehicle through the Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL).

QUICK ANSWER

New Washington residents must title and register their vehicle at a vehicle licensing office (Washington DOL). You'll typically need the out-of-state title, a completed Vehicle/Vessel Bill of Sale where applicable, proof of identity, and payment of the title fee, use tax (if not already paid), and registration fees. Washington does not require an emissions test. Confirm the current new-resident timeframe with the Washington DOL.

KEY FACTS

State	Washington
Agency	Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL)
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 No
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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 Washington address)** **REQUIRED**
Most states require proof of residency to register a vehicle.
- ☐ **Proof of Washington address** **REQUIRED**
Utility bill, lease agreement, or other proof of current residency.
- ☐ **Proof of insurance meeting Washington minimum requirements** **REQUIRED**
Insurance from an insurer licensed in Washington.
- ☐ **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: No — Washington ended statewide emissions testing in 2020; a VIN inspection may still apply to some out-of-state or unverified vehicles.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

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



- 3 Check whether Washington 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 Washington title and registration.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Expecting an emissions test — Washington no longer requires one.
- Not budgeting for use tax if it wasn't paid in your previous state.
- Overlooking Regional Transit Authority (RTA) tax in the Sound Transit district.
- Waiting too long after moving — confirm the current window with the Washington DOL.

OFFICIAL SOURCES

Washington DOL — Register a Vehicle

<https://dol.wa.gov/vehicles-and-boats/vehicles/buying-and-selling-vehicle/buy-and-register-vehicle>

Washington DOL

<https://www.dol.wa.gov>