

Buying A Used Vehicle

From a Private Owner:

You may be buying a vehicle from an ad or a private owner. Here are a few ways to protect yourself:

1. **Ask for a Pre Purchase Inspection** – Just because there is a current inspection and emissions sticker on the window does not mean there are not problems. Most garages will run a diagnostic test on a vehicle for less than \$100. The report will tell you exactly what you are getting and what work will need to be done to the vehicle.
2. **Negotiate any repairs** – If there are repairs that need to be made, ask for either the repairs to be made prior to the purchase OR negotiate a lower price so you can make the repairs.
3. **Research the Blue book value of the vehicle** – goto www.kbb.com and enter the information for a fair market value for the vehicle.
4. **Run a Car History Report** - A car history report will tell you if the car has been in any accident, rebuilt, flooded, etc.. There are several sites you can get access to these reports for low cost or free. Example – Car fax, etc.
5. **DO NOT PAY CASH** – Use a Bank Draft check or money order to ensure there is no confusion on payment. **** Please note it is illegal to misrepresent the amount a vehicle is purchased for when transferring the title to the new owner.**

Be aware that buying a vehicle from a private owner is **an 'AS IS' purchase**. The seller cannot be held liable for any repairs after the vehicle title has been transferred unless you can prove they knew of the problems.

From a Dealer:

** Please refer the 1-5 above...

6. **The FTC requires used car dealers to post a BUYERS GUIDE in or on the vehicle.** This guide will state if the car is being sold **AS IS or with a warranty.**
 - a. **AS IS** – means the buyer accepts all future repairs on the vehicle.
 - b. **WITH WARRANTY**- Read the warranty carefully. Some only cover very basic items for 30 days. Some will only be for repairs up to a certain amount of money for 30 days.
7. **Take the vehicle to a licensed garage for inspection within 3-4 days of purchase.** – An immediate inspection will document any issues quickly and allow you to contact the dealer for the necessary repairs to be made. ** Please note not all repairs will be considered covered under warranty.

Pennsylvania law requires every vehicle offered for sale must be road worthy and must pass Pennsylvania inspection. It is illegal in Pennsylvania for a dealer to sell a car without informing you of any of the following problems:

**--- Cracked or twisted frame; ---Cracked engine block or head; ---Bad transmission; --
-Bad differential; ---Flood Damage. These requirements apply to AS IS dealer sales. It
is important to have the newly purchased car inspected immediately in order to
discover defects in a timely manner.** If the vehicle cannot pass inspection the dealer must
correct the defect. Discovering the defects at a later date makes it more difficult to show car
was sold with any of above defects.

Please contact ACP with any questions or complaints.

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