



## Buying Privately

Without the consumer protection of buying from a licensed dealer, available at this link <https://mvsabc.com/consumers/videos/buying-at-a-dealership/>, you will have to protect your interests. Be sure you are not buying from a Curber, an example is available at this link <https://mvsabc.com/consumers/how-to-spot-a-curber/>. Here's what you will need to check:

<b>Who is the seller?</b>	Ask for identification to confirm the seller is using their real name and that it matches the name on the vehicle registration. Get their contact information.
<b>Is the vehicle description accurate?</b>	Check that the Vehicle Identification Number or VIN (description available at this link <a href="https://mvsabc.com/glossary/vin-or-vehicle-identification-number/">https://mvsabc.com/glossary/vin-or-vehicle-identification-number/</a> ) on the registration is the same as the VIN plate (description available at this link <a href="https://mvsabc.com/glossary/vin-or-vehicle-identification-number/">https://mvsabc.com/glossary/vin-or-vehicle-identification-number/</a> ) and decals on the car. Check that the vehicle make, model and colour are the same as on the vehicle registration.
<b>What is the vehicle status?</b>	Use the free online service, available at this link <a href="https://onlinebusiness.icbc.com/vdwqs/VDWQSServlet/WelcomeAction">https://onlinebusiness.icbc.com/vdwqs/VDWQSServlet/WelcomeAction</a> to look up the status of a vehicle in BC Vehicle Registry. Is it normal, rebuilt, salvage, altered or non-repairable.
<b>Get proof of the vehicle history</b>	Purchase a vehicle history report online from ICBC, <a href="#">CARFAX Canada</a> or another provider. Review it carefully.
<b>Is the vehicle stolen?</b>	Use Canadian Police Information Centre, available at this link <a href="http://app.cpic-cipc.ca/English/searchformvin.cfm">http://app.cpic-cipc.ca/English/searchformvin.cfm</a> , free service to run the vehicle license plate or VIN to see if it was a stolen vehicle. A <a href="#">CARFAX Canada</a> report will have this information.
<b>Get a lien check.</b>	<b>What is a lien</b> – available at this link <a href="https://mvsabc.com/glossary/lien/">https://mvsabc.com/glossary/lien/</a> . Check for unpaid liens. A CARFAX CANADA vehicle history report, available at this link <a href="https://www.carfax.ca/offers">https://www.carfax.ca/offers</a> a Canada-wide lien search. Liens registered in B.C. can be checked at the <i>Personal Property Registry</i> through this link <a href="https://www.bconline.gov.bc.ca/personal_prop_reg.html">https://www.bconline.gov.bc.ca/personal_prop_reg.html</a> at BC Online, or at select <i>Service BC</i> office locations.
<b>Get repair and service records</b>	Ask for the records from the owner. A true private seller will have these records and they will be in their name. A curber will not. A CARFAX Canada report may provide some service records.
<b>Does the vehicle have an open recall?</b>	<b>What is an open recall</b> – available at this link <a href="https://mvsabc.com/glossary/recall/">https://mvsabc.com/glossary/recall/</a> . You can use the website of the manufacturer or go to the Government of Canada general recall website, available at this link <a href="http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis">http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis</a> . CARFAX Canada reports also may have a Recall section. Many sellers will not even know about open recalls.
<b>Mechanical condition</b>	Get the vehicle inspected by a qualified mechanic. Paying a small fee before you buy could save you many headaches and future costs.
<b>Is the vehicle safe?</b>	A Private Vehicle Inspection (PVI) checks that the vehicle meets minimum safety requirements. Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement (CVSE), available at this link <a href="http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/CVSE/">http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/CVSE/</a> has a list of facilities. A qualified mechanic will know, too.
<b>Purchase documents</b>	Purchase and transfer documents should be completed correctly and truthfully. A curber may want you to lie. You can use our sample Sale/Purchase Agreement available at this link <a href="https://mvsabc.com/pdf-fpg/sample-private-sale-agreement/">https://mvsabc.com/pdf-fpg/sample-private-sale-agreement/</a>
<b>If you have a problem?</b>	You will have to go through the courts. The Vehicle Sales Authority will not be able to assist you.

**Note:** This fact sheet provides general information and is not intended to be legal advice.