

CHAPTER 12 — VEHICLE TITLING AND REGISTRATION

TITLING YOUR VEHICLE

Whether you are a Missouri resident buying a new vehicle or a new resident who recently moved to Missouri, you have 30 days to visit your local license office and take care of your legal responsibilities to title your vehicle.

A title is proof that you own your vehicle. When you buy a vehicle, you must apply for a title within 30 days. If you do not apply within 30 days, you will have to pay a penalty fee.

You may apply for a title at any license office. The title will cost \$8.50, and you will be required to pay a \$2.50 processing fee. You will have to pay all state and local sales taxes due. For information on the amount of sales tax you will have to pay, contact any license office, call (573) 526-3669, or visit our website at www.dor.mo.gov and enter “sales tax calculator” into the search box.

When you apply for a title, you will receive a receipt. You will receive your title in the mail from the Department of Revenue.

A title is a very important personal document. Do NOT keep your title in your vehicle.

WHAT YOU NEED TO GET A TITLE

The requirements are different for new and used vehicles and for vehicles bought in Missouri and outside Missouri. Following is a description of the requirements for these situations.

VEHICLES BOUGHT IN MISSOURI

- New Vehicle Bought in Missouri — The dealer will give you a title application and an assigned Manufacturer’s Statement of Origin. The Manufacturer’s Statement of Origin indicates the vehicle is new and has never been registered. You (the purchaser) and the dealer must complete the odometer disclosure portion on the back of the Manufacturer’s Statement of Origin.
- Used Vehicle Bought in Missouri — You must receive a properly assigned title (see below for an explanation) from the seller that proves you have bought the vehicle. If you bought the used vehicle from a dealer, you should also receive a completed title application. A proper odometer disclosure on the back of the title is required on vehicles that are less than 10 years old. If the title assigned to you is an out-of-state title, you must get an identification number and odometer (ID/OD) verification form completed by a licensed inspection station.

VEHICLES BOUGHT OUT-OF-STATE (NOT IN MISSOURI)

- New Vehicle Bought Out-of-State — You must receive the dealer’s invoice or a bill of sale and assigned Manufacturer’s Statement of Origin from the out-of-state dealer. You (the purchaser) and the dealer must complete the odometer disclosure portion on the back of the Manufacturer’s Statement of Origin.

- **Used Vehicle Bought Out-of-State** — You must receive either a properly assigned title (see below for an explanation) from the seller or a reassigned title from the dealer. If the state does not require a title, you must get a bill of sale and the vehicle's last certificate of registration in that state. A proper odometer disclosure is required on vehicles less than 10 years old. If the title assigned to you is an out-of-state title, you must get an identification number and odometer (ID/OD) verification form completed by a licensed inspection station.

Properly Assigned Titles

A properly assigned title has the following information completed in the assignment area:

- Buyer's name and address;
- Odometer reading, if applicable;
- Sale price of vehicle;
- Date of the sale;
- Name of any lienholder, if applicable;
- Signature and printed name of all sellers; and
- Buyer's printed name and signature, if applicable.

Salvage Vehicles

For information on titling a vehicle bought for salvage, dismantling, or rebuilding, call (573) 526-3669, or write to:

Missouri Department of Revenue
Motor Vehicle Bureau
301 West High Street, Room 370
P.O. Box 100
Jefferson City, Missouri 65105-0100

Odometer Readings

When you buy or sell a vehicle that is less than 10 years old, the seller must write the mileage reading on the title assignment. If the vehicle is new, the odometer reading must be on the Manufacturer's Statement of Origin. Both the buyer and the seller must print and sign their names verifying the mileage. In some instances, a separate odometer statement may be required.

REGISTERING YOUR VEHICLE

If you are a Missouri resident, you are required to register your vehicle in Missouri. If you are a new Missouri resident, you must register your vehicle within 30 days of becoming a Missouri resident.

If you are a new Missouri resident, you must surrender your out-of-state title and apply for a Missouri title. If a financial institution has your title, you must provide your out-of-state registration, lienholder's name, and lienholder's address. The license office will generate a letter for you to send to your lienholder. After you surrender your out-of-state title, a Missouri title will be issued and mailed to you.

When you register your vehicle in Missouri, you will receive Missouri license plates and a year tab located on the plate.

You may register your vehicle at any license office. If you are registering a passenger vehicle, your registration fee will be based on your vehicle's taxable horsepower. If you are registering a commercial vehicle, your registration fee will be based on its zone and gross weight. An additional processing fee will apply.

You may be eligible to obtain a two-year registration for your vehicle. During an even-numbered year (like 2008) you may register for two years if your vehicle has an even-numbered model year. Likewise, during an odd-numbered year (like 2009) you may register for two years if your vehicle has an odd-numbered model year. Otherwise, only a one-year registration is available.

What You Need to Register Your Vehicle

About two months before your vehicle registration expires, you should receive a renewal notice in the mail. If you do not receive the notice, you are still required by law to renew your license plates **before** they expire.

To ensure you receive a renewal notice, remember to update your address if you move. You can e-mail dormail@dor.mo.gov and include your full name, old and new address, your driver license number or last four digits of your Social Security Number, and your vehicle's license plate number(s).

The renewal notice will list your requirements to renew your vehicle registration. Make sure to read the list and bring the required documents to the license office with you. The requirements are listed below but all of them may not apply to you.

- Renewal notice from the department, a registration receipt from the previous year, or a copy of your title.
- Paid personal property tax receipt or a statement of non-assessment from the county in which you reside (or city of St. Louis) for the period of your previous registration. (If you had a one-year registration, show the previous year's receipt. If you had a two-year registration, show receipts from the previous two years.)
- Current insurance identification card or other proof of financial responsibility (refer to Chapter 13 for detailed information).
- Current certificate of safety and/or emissions inspection done within the last 60 days, if applicable (refer to Chapter 14 for more information).
- The correct registration/processing fee.

TIP! You may also be able to renew your plates online at www.plates.mo.gov. If you are eligible for this convenient option, a Personal Identification Number (PIN) will be printed on your renewal notice.

OTHER INFORMATION

Selling a Vehicle

State law requires you to report the sale of your motor vehicle or all-terrain vehicle by completing a Notice of Sale (Form 5049) and submitting it to any license office or to the address on the form within 30 days.

Stolen License Plates and Tabs

State law allows you to replace stolen license plates/tabs up to two times per year at NO COST (a \$3.50 processing fee is applicable) if you sign a notarized affidavit certifying the plates or tabs were stolen.

Lost or Destroyed Title, Plates, or Tabs

If your license plate(s), tab(s), or title is lost or destroyed, you must apply for a replacement. The charge for a replacement title is \$8.50; the charge for replacement plates is \$8.50 per plate; and the charge for a set of replacement tabs is \$8.50. An additional processing fee of \$3.50 will also apply.

The standard Missouri license plate bear the words "Missouri" and "SHOW ME STATE" at the top of the plate and the state bird and state flower at the bottom of the plate. A color-coded year tab is affixed to the license plate.

Personalized and Specialty License Plates

You have the option to obtain personalized or specialty license plates for your vehicle. In addition to the normal registration fee, there may be an additional personalized plate fee. Information regarding personalized and specialty license plates may be found online at:

www.dor.mo.gov/mvdl/motorv/plates.