

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

FLOOD DAMAGED VEHICLES

When shopping for a new or used vehicle, be cautious of dishonest businesses and individuals who may try to sell you a flood-damaged vehicle. Vehicles that have been underwater can have serious mechanical or electrical problems. The following tips can help you avoid falling victim to a dishonest seller.



Stick to reputable, well-known sellers.



If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.



Trust your gut. If any thing seems suspicious, walk away.

BEFORE YOU BUY:



www.consumer.sc.gov • 800-922-1594

PUBLICATION DEVELOPED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SC Automobile Dealers Association
Carolinas Independent Automobile Dealers Association

INSPECT & EXAMINE

Check the trunk, glove compartment, dashboard, and below the seats for water damage such as silt, mud, or rust.

Examine the interior closely: make sure that the upholstery and carpeting match and fit tight; if it doesn't this could be a sign it has been replaced. Also **check** for discoloring, faded or stained material, which are other signs of serious water damage.

Have the vehicle inspected by a trusted mechanic BEFORE purchase.

TEST

Check that all the lights and gauges in the instrument panel are working properly.

Test all the interior and exterior lights, windshield wipers, turn signals, stereo, windows, mirrors, and seats.

Ensure both the heater and air conditioner work. Check for musty odors when the air conditioner is on.

ASK

Ask to see a detailed vehicle history report. The report can reveal hidden problems from a vehicle's past.

Use the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) to get a FREE report on the vehicle's flood history at www.nicb.org or www.flood.carfax.com. *NOTE: Flood history is only reported on vehicles that were insured when they were damaged.