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 anything seems suspicious, walk away.

BEFORE YOU BUY:

www.consumer.sc.gov • 800-922-1594

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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](http://www.nicb.org) or [www.flood.carfax.com](http://www.flood.carfax.com). *NOTE: Flood history is only reported on vehicles that were insured when they were damaged.*