



Learn The Secrets of the **Auto Business**

<http://www.theautobusiness.com>

How to avoid buying a hot car

Well let's just start off by saying that not all stolen cars are wrecked or sold to the chop shop and ripped apart for the parts. These days crooks have found that for a little extra trouble, they can roll back the odometer of a vehicle, make some slight changes to it and then sell the stolen car for quick cash. And the kicker to this story is that if you are the unlucky buyer who purchased the car from the thieves and the car is eventually tracked down, then it is too bad for you. You will end up losing the vehicle and your money that you spent to buy it.

Here's how to avoid buying a stolen vehicle.

1. Ask yourself why this car is going for such a great price. If it looks too good to be true then think to your self, maybe it is. Has it been wrecked or damaged in a flood? Maybe someone has tampered with the mileage? Or better yet is the car hot?
2. Make sure you do a background check to verify the seller's name and address against the information on the title and registration, there are lots of cheap services in most municipalities or on the internet that you can use to help with this.
3. Verify who financed the car, check for any money owed against the vehicle and who insures it.
4. Examine the vehicle identification number (VIN) plate. This is located on the driver's side dash close to the windshield, and can be viewed from outside. Look for any scratches, dents or loose rivets around the VIN plate indicating any tampering. A magnifying glass may help you here.
5. Make sure the VIN matches the number on the title.
6. If the vehicle has a fresh paint job then you should be a little suspicious. While some legitimate sellers will have a car painted to spruce it up, that new paint may also be hiding mismatched parts or the original color of a reported stolen vehicle.
7. Get a copy of the title and bring it to the Department of Motor Vehicles and ask them to run a title history check for you (most places charge a small fee for this, but well worth it. (If the insurance company is listed as one of the owners, you probably do not want this car anyway; as that often means that the vehicle has likely been in a wreck and was repaired cheaply for quick sale). There are also some web sites like Carfax.com that can do a vehicle check for you (it can often be quicker).

Tips:

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

If you buy a stolen car or truck, you risk having to keep up the payments even if it's taken away - and you may also be charged with receiving stolen property.

Warnings:

If you suspect a vehicle may be stolen, then it is better to notify the police then risk your own money.

See the TheAutobusiness.com for more information related to buying & selling used cars.