



Your vehicle

- Buying a vehicle – safety considerations
- Registering your vehicle

Buying a vehicle – safety considerations

Making good choices when it comes to buying a new or used vehicle can make a big difference to your chances of avoiding a crash in the first place. It can also improve your chance of survival if you are involved in a crash. It's important to make sure you don't compromise on safety when it comes to buying a car. Before you buy a car, check the *SafeCars App* to find the safest and most affordable car models in your price range.

Safety features checklist

To help you avoid a crash in the first place and minimise the possibility of a fatal or serious injury in a crash that could not be avoided, always ask the following questions when buying a vehicle.

- *What is the safety rating?* At least a four but preferably a five star safety rating is recommended for both new and used vehicles.
- *Are airbags fitted for both side and front impacts?* Make sure that side curtain airbags are fitted as they provide valuable protection to your head and torso in side impacts. They may also provide some protection in rollover type crashes.
- *Does it have an electronic stability control system?* Electronic stability control systems have been recognised to significantly reduce crash rates by helping drivers maintain control of their vehicles in difficult driving situations.
- *What restraints does the vehicle have?*
 - three-point (lap-sash) seatbelts for all seats
 - adjustable head restraints for all seats – look for active head restraints that reduce the distance your head moves during an impact
 - pre-tensioning seatbelts – actively tighten in a crash and remove slack just before a crash
 - load-limiting seatbelts – minimise the force on the body during a crash
 - child restraint anchor points – sufficient for the number of child seats required
 - seatbelt reminder – sound or dashboard light warning when seatbelts are not worn.

Environmentally friendly vehicles

To help choose the best 'green' car for you, the Commonwealth Government's *Green Vehicle Guide* (www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au) provides information on vehicle fuel consumption for both new and used vehicles and greenhouse and air pollution ratings for new vehicles. It also includes a fuel consumption database for vehicles manufactured between 1986 and 2003, plus more

‘greener’ motoring information about how to drive and maintain any vehicle efficiently.

A Department of Transport and Main Roads transport inspector may pull over your vehicle anywhere, anytime in Queensland to test your vehicle’s pollution levels. Your vehicle will be given a good, fair or poor pollution rating.

For more information about Aircare, the Department of Transport and Main Roads’ program for promoting clean air practices, visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/environment.

Buyer’s checklist for a registered vehicle

- The vehicle has a current Queensland safety certificate.
- The safety certificate is displayed on the vehicle.
- The issuing approved inspection station’s name is on it.
- The safety certificate is still valid.
- An independent mechanic has inspected the vehicle.
- The seller has a registration certificate or vehicle registration notice in their name – although this is not proof of legal ownership.
- You should use the search function on the Personal Property Securities Register, by visiting www.ppsr.gov.au or by calling **1300 007 777**, to make sure that the vehicle you are buying does not have a security interest over it. For example, if you buy a vehicle that still has money owing on it, the vehicle could be repossessed by the person who lent money against it. **Note:** this search will also advise whether the vehicle has been reported as stolen or written-off.
- If the vehicle runs on gas or has gas fittings or systems, it may require a gas certificate.
- Ensure a transfer application is completed and signed by yourself and the seller and lodge it with the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Registering your vehicle

A vehicle must be registered before you can use it on the road, including driving and parking. Registration fees help fund the development and maintenance of the road network. Registration includes the cost of compulsory third party (CTP) insurance, which covers the owner and driver of a motor vehicle for legal liability arising from the use of the vehicle causing injury to another person.

CTP insurance does not cover damage to property, including vehicles.

The person in whose name a vehicle is registered is the ‘registered operator’.

This person is responsible for its operation on the road. The registered operator must be a person or other legal entity. If the vehicle is a heavy vehicle, the person must be 18 years or older. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will currently allow two individual registered operators to be recorded. However, further transactions for this vehicle may be authorised by either operator. Registration is not proof of legal ownership.

You can only register a vehicle in Queensland if its garage address (where it is based or from where it regularly operates) is in Queensland. You must provide evidence of a Queensland garage address when registering a vehicle. You must notify any change of address within 14 days.

If you have a vehicle registered in another state and you are living in Queensland, you must register the vehicle in Queensland within 14 days of Queensland becoming the vehicle's garage address.

For more information including how to register a motor vehicle, visit www.qld.gov.au.

Transferring registration

If you have acquired a registered, second-hand vehicle you will need to transfer the registration to your name within 14 days.

For more information on transferring registration, visit www.qld.gov.au.

Renewing registration

A vehicle registration notice will be sent to you about four weeks before your registration expiry date. You can sign up for e-notices and e-reminders to receive your notice by email instead of by postal mail. If you sign up you will also be sent an e-reminder three days before your registration expiry date and on the day the registration is due to expire.

If you do not receive a vehicle registration notice, you are still responsible for paying the registration fee and CTP insurance by the expiry date. If you do not renew your registration by the expiry date, your registration lapses and a reinstatement fee will be payable. Once the registration lapses, the vehicle is unregistered and cannot be used on a road.

For more information on renewing registration, visit www.qld.gov.au.