



Office of Consumer Affairs
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CONSUMER FACTSHEET

BUYING A USED CAR?

There are steps you can take as a consumer to protect yourself before signing the automobile contract or handing over your cash so you do not end up with a "lemon."

- First decide what types of cars you are interested in and how much you can afford. If you are planning to finance, consider getting pre-approved. Take time to check car values by comparing newspaper advertisements or through consumer resources such as the Kelly Blue Book or Consumer Reports.
- Look over the car carefully during daylight hours as this will show signs of damage if they exist.
- Ask the dealer questions about the history and condition of the car, such as whether it was ever in an accident or flood. Complete a vehicle history check.
- Test-drive the car on various road conditions, such as driving on hills, highways, and in stop-and-go traffic.
- Have a mechanic you choose inspect it.
- If the dealer promises to correct any conditions or to make certain repairs upon your purchase of the car, get these promises **IN WRITING** as part of the contract.
- You have the right to see a copy of the dealer's warranty before you buy.



In Ohio, You Also Need to Be Aware:

- "AS IS" means... you, the buyer, understand there are no guarantees and that anything could be wrong with the car.
- Dealers are required to post a buyers guide in every used car they offer for sale, which states whether the car is sold "as is" or with a warranty. This requirement does not apply to private car sales.
- Dealers are required to have a used car titled in the dealership's name prior to offering the car for sale, unless the dealership is a member of the Title Defect Recision Fund.
- Used car sales are NOT covered under the "3-day Cooling Off Rule" or Ohio's Lemon Law.