

## Buy a vehicle: step by step

Check what you need to do when you buy a vehicle.

[Show all](#)

### 1 Check the vehicle before you buy it

[Hide](#)

You'll need the vehicle's registration number, make, model and MOT test number. You also need to see the V5C vehicle registration certificate (log book).

[Check the details you've been given match DVLA's information](#)

[Check the vehicle's MOT history](#)

[Check if the vehicle has been recalled because of a safety issue](#)

[Check the log book isn't for a stolen vehicle](#)

### 2 Buy and register the vehicle

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Once you've bought the vehicle, you have to register it. How you register it depends on whether it has a V5C registration certificate (log book).

[Find out how to register your vehicle](#)

[Get a vehicle log book if you don't have it – £25](#)

< Go to: <https://www.gov.uk/buy-a-vehicle>

< Tax a car online: [www.gov.uk/vehicle-tax](http://www.gov.uk/vehicle-tax)

### and Register for MOT reminders

[Hide](#)

You must get an MOT for your vehicle every year once it's 3 years old.

Get a reminder when your MOT is due

### 3 Insure the vehicle

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You must have insurance before you can use your vehicle on the road.

[Check if your vehicle is insured on the Motor Insurance Database](#)

[Read about vehicle insurance](#)

### 4 Tax the vehicle

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You need to tax the vehicle before you can use it on the road.

[Check how much you'll have to pay to tax your vehicle](#)

[Check when you don't have to pay vehicle tax](#)

[Tax your vehicle](#)

Check if a vehicle is taxed  
<https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax>

Check MOT status  
<https://www.gov.uk/check-mot-status>

Check insurance status  
<https://ownvehicle.askmid.com/>