






Auto theft is a serious problem across Canada. Vehicles are stolen for several reasons:

- ▶ For use in other criminal activities
- ▶ For parts
- ▶ For export in black market trades
- ▶ For transportation
- ▶ For resale to unsuspecting buyers, using a false vehicle identity

## Questions about insurance? Call us.

**Insurance Bureau of Canada**  
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The information provided in this brochure is intended for educational and informational purposes only. Please consult the appropriate qualified professional to determine if this information is applicable to your circumstances.

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## How to Protect Yourself from Buying a Stolen Vehicle

BUYER BEWARE





## Here are some tips to help you avoid buying a stolen vehicle:

- 1** Consider buying vehicles from registered dealers rather than private sellers.
  - 2** When buying a used vehicle, be sure to:
    - a.** Check that the engine and/or model is as it should be – for example, V6 engine, 4x4 model
    - b.** Verify the original colour by checking under the hood for other colours
    - c.** Order vehicle history reports and check that:
      - i.** There is no gap in the vehicle's history
      - ii.** There is only one history for each vehicle
      - iii.** The vehicle hasn't been branded as a flood vehicle or a total loss from another jurisdiction
    - d.** The odometer is consistent with the vehicle's origin – for example, a vehicle registered in Canada should have its odometer displayed in kilometres, not miles
    - e.** The public Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) plate on the dashboard is visible and legible.
    - f.** The public VIN matches the VIN on the certification label located on the driver's side door post. If the certification label is missing, or appears to have been tampered with, it could indicate a problem.
  - 3** Obtain a Used Vehicle Information Package, in addition to vehicle history reports.
  - 4** Verify that the VIN on vehicle history reports matches the VIN on the vehicle's dashboard.
  - 5** Ask the seller for proof of vehicle ownership.
  - 6** Have a Vehicle Information Report (VIR) done at your local registry office to check for outstanding liens.
  - 7** Visit the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) at [www.cpic-cipc.ca](http://www.cpic-cipc.ca) to determine if the vehicle has been reported as stolen.
- If you have concerns about the identity of a vehicle you're about to buy, please contact the IBC Tips Line at 1-888-IBC-TIPS (1-877-422-8477).**
- For additional information, please visit the Insurance Bureau of Canada website at [www.ibc.ca](http://www.ibc.ca).