

DON'T BUY A RUBBISH CAR

DO YOUR HOMEWORK - Shop around BEFORE you buy

Compare the prices of the same or similar cars in other yards.

Work out how much you can afford to pay.

Don't forget the added expenses such as:

- the cost of changing the registration into your name;
- stamp duty;
- fuel;
- maintenance; and
- insurance.

Only choose a car that you can afford. When people are buying cars they sometimes get excited and end up buying a car that is too expensive for their budget.

Arrange for a mechanic to check that the vehicle is roadworthy and has no major problems. A mechanic can tell you if the car is worth the money that the owner is asking for.

Don't sign any paperwork unless you are sure you want the car.

If there's anything you don't understand, take the unsigned contract away and get some independent advice from your friends, Community Council, Consumer Affairs or Aboriginal Legal Aid, before you sign.

Never sign a contract with blank spaces.

There is no Northern Territory law that applies to private sales of motor vehicles.

Play it safe

Buy your car from a Northern Territory Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealer.

A licensed motor vehicle dealer will have their license number displayed in the car yard.

If you buy a used car from a dealer the car has to be fit to be registered in the Northern Territory.

The dealer must also guarantee that there is no money owing on the vehicle from previous owners.

The dealer may also have to give you a warranty on the vehicle he sells you:

- cars under 10 years old that have travelled less than 160,000 kms have a 3 month warranty (by law); and
- cars over 10 years old or have travelled over 160,000 must be roadworthy.

Be careful if you are asked to sign away your warranty

The dealer may offer you the car for a cheaper price if you waive the warranty (that is give away your rights).

If you have signed the waiver form and something goes wrong with the car, or it breaks down, you cannot go back to the dealer to have the car fixed under warranty.

If you decide to waive the warranty, the form must be signed in front of a policeman or a Fair Trading Officer from NT Consumer Affairs.

If you need to know more information about the different types of warranties that apply to the vehicle you wish to buy, contact the Consumer Affairs office: 1800 019 319

NORTHERN TERRITORY CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS ONLY APPLY TO MOTOR CARS BOUGHT FROM A LICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER.

There is less protection when buying privately. It is best to avoid buying a car privately or from one of your mates.

If you buy a car, that has been stolen, or the previous owner still owes money on the loan, the car can be taken off you, and you will not get your money back. To check if there is money owing on the car, or if it is stolen, telephone the Personal Property Securities Register (PPSR) on 1300 007 777. Or visit <http://www.ppsr.gov.au>

PPSR will need the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) or chassis number. For a small charge you can be assured the vehicle will not be repossessed for someone else's debt.

If you buy from someone who does not hold a motor vehicle dealer's license, and there is something wrong with the car, or it breaks down, there is no warranty. You would have to pay for all of the repairs, even if you had only purchased the car a few days before it broke down.