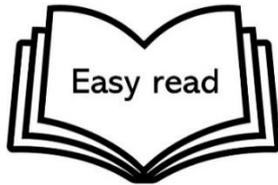


Buying a used car



Easy read brochure

2022



You might need help to read this brochure.

A friend, family member or support person can help you.



Government of South Australia
Consumer and Business Services





Buying a car is an important decision, so take your time deciding which car is right for you.

Don't let anyone pressure you to buy a car that they are selling.



Work out how much you can afford to spend to buy the car.

Make sure you also have enough money to pay for stamp duty, transfer fees, registration and insurance.



Look at different cars for sale to compare cars and prices. You can look online or visit car dealerships.

Buying from a private seller



There can be risks when buying a car from someone who is not a licensed car dealer.

They might not be the registered owner or they may try to hide damage.



If there have been events like major flooding or hail in one part of Australia, a car owner might try to sell their car to someone in a different state, like in South Australia. They might try to hide the damage.

To lower the risk:



- take the car for a test drive



- get an independent mechanic to check the car and the engine

There is a government register you should check. It is called the **Personal Property Securities Register**.



Damage

This register will tell you:

- if the car has been damaged



- if someone owes money on the car.

If you buy a car and someone else owes money on it, a debt collector could take your car away.



Check the register at www.ppsr.gov.au

There is a small fee to check this register, but it gives you peace of mind.

Buying from a licensed vehicle dealer

The law protects you when buying from a licensed dealer.



You get a **warranty** in most cases. See page 8 for more information about warranties.

You also get **consumer guarantees**. This means that:



- the car must be good quality
- the car must be able to do what the dealer said it could - e.g. tow a caravan



- the car must match a sample or demonstration model
- the dealer must give truthful information about the car



- the dealer will check to make sure no one else owes money on the car

- the dealer or manufacturer must do what they promise in the warranty.



The dealer must help you if a consumer guarantee is not met.

Make sure everything you negotiate with the dealer is in writing.

Cooling off period



When you buy from a dealer, you get a **cooling off period**. This means you can cancel the contract and not buy the car.

You must give the dealer written notice before the cooling off period ends.



The cooling off period is for 2 business days. Saturday is a business day for car dealers.



If you need to take the car with you straight away you can give up your right to a cooling off period. This is called **waiving** your right.

You will need to sign a **waiver form** and a **witness** must see you sign the waiver form.

The witness cannot be the dealer or a salesperson involved in the sale.

A dealer must not encourage you to give up your right to cool off – e.g. by offering a cheaper price for the car.



Warranty

A warranty is a promise that the car dealer makes about fixing a problem for free.

You will usually get a warranty if the price you pay for the car is more than \$3,000.

If you need repairs to be done under the warranty contact the dealer.



You can give up (waive) the warranty on your car to get a better price.

To waive your warranty rights, you must sign a form (called a Schedule 6 form).



Even if you waive your warranty rights, you will still have consumer guarantees.

Buying at auction



An auction is where people who want to buy a car make **bids** for the price they are willing to pay for the car. The person who makes the highest bid gets the car.

There are some risks if you buy a car at auction.



You may not be able to test drive the car before the auction, or check the car thoroughly.

There is no cooling off period, so you cannot return the car if you change your mind.



If the person who owns the car before the auction is not a car dealer, you do not get a warranty or consumer guarantees.

If the auction house owns the car, they must give you consumer guarantees.



For more information

Visit www.cbs.sa.gov.au/cars to watch the short videos for tips about buying a second-hand car.

Contact Consumer and Business Services via



<https://www.cbs.sa.gov.au/contact>



or telephone 131 882