# **Checklist: How to check if a car is stolen**

**1. Check the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)**

Locate the VIN on the car. Common locations include:

* The dashboard, visible through the windshield.
* The driver’s side door frame.
* The engine bay or other manufacturer-specified locations.

Compare the VIN on the car with the VIN listed in its documents, such as the registration and title, to ensure they match.

**2. Use the vehicle's VIN to check the vehicle’s history**

* Utilize services to conduct a thorough vehicle history search.

**3. Verify ownership documents**

* Carefully inspect the car’s registration, title, and any other ownership documents.
* Ensure the documents are authentic and free from signs of tampering, such as **mismatched fonts**, **erased marks**, or **discrepancies in details**.

**5. Consult law enforcement or stolen vehicle databases**

* Cross-check the VIN with local law enforcement agencies or online registries for stolen vehicles.

**6. Inspect for signs of tampering**

**Closely examine the car for:**

* Altered or replaced VIN plates.
* Inconsistent repairs or paintwork.
* Mismatched parts or components that could indicate past accidents or stolen parts.

**7. Research the seller**

* Verify the seller’s identity and reputation, whether they are a private individual or a dealership.
* Be cautious of deals that appear too good to be true, as they may indicate potential fraud or hidden defects.