

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.