BUYER BEWARE – Hurricane/Flood Vehicles

If you are in the market to purchase a vehicle, there are several things that you can do to help detect flood damage in a vehicle.

First and foremost, rely on your senses:

   SMELL – Does the vehicle have a musty odor?
   • If unsure, try closing the doors and roll up the windows to help diagnose a musty smell
   • Strong air fresheners can sometimes be used to mask a musty odor

   TOUCH – Feel for wet or damp carpet:
   • Under the seats
   • Under the floor mats
   • In the trunk

   SIGHT – Look for mud or silt in areas that are not typically affected by the elements:
   • Under the carpet
   • Spare tire cavity
   • Glove compartment
   • Under the seats
   • On and around the engine

Secondly, do your research:

   • Take the vehicle for a test drive
   • Be sure to test the instruments: Radio, Interior and Exterior Lighting, AC and Heat
   • Run a vehicle history report – see “Resources” below
   • Have the vehicle checked by a certified mechanic

Resources:

National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) – Full vehicle history reports provide data concerning state title issuance and brand history, odometer reading, and vehicle total loss and salvage history. Vehicle history report providers can be found - https://www.vehiclehistory.gov/index.html

National Insurance Crime Bureau – Partners with consumers and others to combat insurance fraud and theft. Search vehicle history through a VIN# search or report fraud - https://www.nicb.org/


Ohio BMV Title Services - Visit BMV Online Services, “Vehicle/Watercraft Title Search,” to view titles issued in the State of Ohio. https://services.dps.ohio.gov/BMVOlineServices/Search/Title

www.bmv.ohio.gov