

Buying a car

How to avoid Lemon cars



What is a lemon car?

Lemon cars are cars that have been sold to a person that has defects after purchasing it.

Keep these tips in mind when buying a car.

1. Check that the vehicle has a roadworthy/safety certificate
2. Test drive the vehicle
3. If you are unsure about the vehicle's safety inspection, you can get a second opinion from a mechanic, RACQ, RACV or similar. Please note you may have to pay a fee.
4. Check the warranty on the vehicle. Warranty differs for each vehicle if it is new or secondhand car. When buying a vehicle privately generally there is no warranty.
5. Read over your contract carefully, if you do not understand any of the terms then ask the seller to explain it to you.
6. You can do a VIN/chassis search on a vehicle by visiting Personal Property Securities Register at <https://transact.ppsr.gov.au/ppsr-mobile/QMVS>. The search will also show if there is any debt owing on the vehicle, whether it has been stolen or written off. Note there is a small fee involved to request a report.
7. Other things to take into consideration when you purchase a vehicle is registration, insurance, stamp duty, repairs and maintenance.
8. Before you buy a new car, contact 'Motor Trades Association' - they can complete a search of the dealership you're buying the car from and let you know their reputation from previous customer sales.

What can you do if you have bought a lemon car?

If you have purchased a 'lemon' car you should contact the dealership or person you have bought the car from. There are laws in place to protect buyers. This is called Customer Guarantee under Australian Consumer Law. Each state and territory have a small claims tribunal to handle these complaints.

