

Fast Facts 17

Lemon Law Buyback Vehicles



What is a Lemon Law Buyback Vehicle?

A Lemon Law buyback is a vehicle that has been reacquired by the manufacturer, on or after January 1, 1996, due to specified warranty defect(s). The vehicle must be registered in the manufacturer's name prior to resale to the public.

Manufacturer Requirements

The manufacturer must:

- Request the California Certificate of Title and registration certificate be marked "Lemon Law Buyback."
- Title the vehicle in the manufacturer's name.
- Attach a decal to the vehicle, which reads "Lemon Law Buyback." The decal will be affixed in one of the following locations:
 - Left door frame.
 - Frame of the major entry into the vehicle, such as the front right door frame of a motorhome.
 - Left side of a vehicle without doors, such as a motorcycle.

Seller Requirements

When a Lemon Law buyback vehicle is sold, the seller must notify the buyer (on letter-size paper) of the following:

- The year, make, model, and vehicle identification number (VIN).
- The vehicle title is marked "Lemon Law Buyback."
- The nature of each defect reported by the vehicle's original buyer or lessee.
- Any repairs made to the vehicle in an attempt to correct each defect.

How Can I Tell if a Vehicle was a Lemon Law Buyback?

- Check for the decal described in the Manufacturer Requirements section.
- Look at the vehicle's California Certificate of Title and registration certificate to verify if the wording is stated as, "Lemon Law Buyback."
- Ask the dealer/seller if the vehicle was a Lemon Law Buyback. Law requires the dealer to disclose if it was.

Requirements Needed if I Purchase a Lemon Law Buyback Vehicle

Prior to buying a Lemon Law buyback vehicle, the seller must notify you in writing of the defects stated by the original owner.

If you purchase the vehicle, transfer documents and fees will be required. This includes the:

- California Certificate of Title.
- Applicable registration, transfer, and use tax fee.
- Smog certification, if applicable.
- A Vehicle/Vessel Transfer and Reassignment Form (REG 262) for odometer disclosure for vehicles less than 10 years old.

NOTE: For registration fees, see the *Registration Related Fees* (FFVR 34) *Fast Facts* brochure at dmv.ca.gov.

Additional Information

For more information on California's Lemon Law and vehicles sold by a dealer franchised to sell new vehicles, contact:

Department of Motor Vehicles

New Motor Vehicle Board

P.O. Box 188680

Sacramento, CA 95818-8680

Telephone: (916) 445-1888

Online at: **nmvb.ca.gov**.

For more information on California's Lemon Law and arbitration programs, visit the Department of Consumer Affairs at **dca.ca.gov** or request a free booklet, titled *Lemon-Aid for Consumers*, from:

Department of Consumer Affairs

1625 North Market Blvd., Suite N112

Sacramento, CA 95834

Telephone: (800) 952-5210