

Title Transfer

In [California](#), vehicle title transfers must be initiated within **10 days** of a private sale or gift to avoid late penalties. If over 30 days, a \$15 penalty will be incurred.

Step 1: Gather Required Documents

- California Certificate of Title:** Both the seller and buyer must sign the original title. If the title is missing, the seller must complete an [Application for Replacement or Transfer of Title \(REG 227\)](#).
- Smog Certification:** Most vehicles over four years old require a smog check certificate valid within the last 90 days.
- Odometer Disclosure:** Required for vehicles less than 10 years old. If the title doesn't have a space for it, use the [Vehicle/Vessel Transfer and Reassignment \(REG 262\)](#) form, which must be requested by mail or in person.
- Bill of Sale:** Use the [Bill of Sale \(REG 135\)](#) to record the purchase price and date.

Step 2: Seller's Responsibility

- The seller must submit a [Notice of Transfer and Release of Liability \(NRL\)](#) to the DMV within **5 days** of the sale to release them from any future liability or violations.

Step 3: Buyer's Submission and Payment

The buyer must submit the signed title and forms to the [DMV](#) (by mail or in person) and pay the following:

- Transfer Fee:** Typically \$15–\$28.
- Use Tax:** Based on the purchase price and the buyer's county (usually 7.25%–10.25%).
- Registration Fees:** Required if the vehicle's registration has expired or near expiration.
- Submit to DMV**
Deliver all necessary documents for your title transfer to a DMV office or mail to:

DMV
PO Box 942869
Sacramento, CA 94269

Step 4: Receive New Title

- Once processed, the DMV will mail the new "pink slip" to the buyer, usually within **30 to 60 days**.