

# Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

## How to Register Your Car and Obtain Auto Tags When purchasing a car from an individual

Important: **This is a different DMV office from the DMV office where you take the test for the Driver's License, Learner's Permit or obtain the State ID card.** The NC DMV website ([www.ncdot.org/dmv](http://www.ncdot.org/dmv)) also provides very specific information about the registration process.

### Durham

1058 West Club Blvd., Durham, NC 27707 (Northgate Mall at the corner of Club Blvd & Guess Rd)  
Tel. (919) 286-4908  
Open: Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

### Chapel Hill

201 South Estes Drive Suite 137, Chapel Hill, 27515  
Tel. (919) 929-0204  
Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

### You must bring the following to register your car:

- Title and registration\* from private party or 3% of bill of sale
- Proof of insurance (policy statement) from dealership
- Mileage (from car's odometer) ➤ \$28 for License
- Photo identification (passport or driving license) ➤ \$5.00 for RTA/GTP
- Money for fees and taxes (cash or check) ➤ \$40 for Title
  - HUT = 3% of fair market value if bought

At the DMV, you will be given your car registration (this must be kept in the car glove compartment) and license plate. A new Certificate of Title, in your name, will be mailed to you and should arrive in a few weeks. Go back to the DMV if you do not receive the title within two weeks. You will need the title when you are finally ready to sell the car.

**Payment:** Due to a state law, a record of every vehicle registered with the DMV is sent to the county tax assessor for listing. The County Offices send a bill to taxpayers approximately three months after a license plate or sticker is issued. So be prepared to pay another fee again for your car after three months.

### Registering your Car in the State of North Carolina

- Before a vehicle can be registered in North Carolina, the DMV requires proof of ownership.
  - For new vehicles, the manufacturer's certificate of origin is the official transfer document.
  - If you purchase a used vehicle that has previously been registered, you must present the title that has been signed by the former owner & notarized.
- To register a used vehicle for the first time in North Carolina, you must present the title from the state where the vehicle was formerly registered.
  - If the used vehicle is from a state that does not require titles, you must present
    - the current vehicle registration card with a notarized transfer of ownership on the back, or
    - a notarized bill of sale from the former owner and the former owner's proof of purchase.