

Tips to Follow to Avoid Buying a Cloned Vehicle

The following is a list of tips that the National Insurance Crime Bureau and the FBI recommend any consumer follow to avoid buying a cloned vehicle:

- Check the vehicle's VIN with appropriate government agencies or your state Bureau of Motor Vehicles.
- Analyze the ownership pattern for any new or late model vehicle with no lien holder.
- Be careful about purchasing a used vehicle from an individual running a newspaper ad and using a cell phone number.
- Conduct a title search of the vehicle. This can be done by running a simple vehicle history report on the commercial website, <http://www.carfax.com>.
- If possible, have your insurer inspect the vehicle prior to purchase. Check with your insurer to see if you're covered for title and VIN fraud.
- Trust your instincts: if you don't like the answers or the deal sounds too good to be true, walk away!