

**ALL FROM THE NAME THAT SELLS ITSELF: ALLSTATE**  [LEARN MORE](#)



**nada.org**

[ADVANCED SEARCH](#) | [SITE MAP](#)  60

Welcome, you are not logged in | [LOGIN](#)

[ABOUT NADA](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [NADA LEADERSHIP](#) | [JOBS AT NADA](#) | [MEMBERSHIP](#)

[Advocacy & Outreach](#) | [Membership](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Products & Services](#) | [Programs & Awards](#) | [Publications](#) | [Related Organizations](#) | [Training & Events](#)

You are here: [NADA](#) » [Legislative Affairs](#) » [Commerce Issues](#) » [Total-Loss Disclosure](#) » [Tips on How to Spot a Flood-Damaged Vehicle](#)

[Economy & Financial Services](#)

[Commerce Issues](#)

[Tax Policy](#)

[Fuel Economy & the Environment](#)

[Grassroots Resources](#)



[Print This Page](#)



[E-Mail to a Friend](#)

## Tips on How to Spot a Flood-Damaged Vehicle

[En Español](#)

Severe weather across the nation has led to floods in several parts of the country. In their wake: a large number of flood-damaged vehicles.

NADA offers 10 inspection tips that may be used to detect significant water damage. A prospective buyer can spot a flooded vehicle by following these simple steps:

1. Check the vehicle's title history by VIN through commercially available vehicle history reports like [Carfax](#) or [Experian Auto Check](#). The report may state whether a vehicle has sustained flood damage.
2. Examine the interior and the engine compartment for evidence of water and grit from suspected submersion.
3. Check for recently shampooed carpet.
4. Look under the floorboard carpet for water residue or stain marks from evaporated water not related to air-conditioning pan leaks.
5. Inspect for rusting on the inside of the car and under interior carpeting and visually inspect all interior upholstery and door panels for any evidence of fading;
6. Check under the dashboard for dried mud and residue, and note any evidence of mold or a musty odor in the upholstery, carpet or trunk.
7. Check for rust on screws in the console or other areas where the water would normally not reach unless submerged.
8. Look for mud or grit in alternator crevices, behind wiring harnesses and around the small recesses of starter motors, power steering pumps and relays.
9. Complete a detailed inspection of the electrical wiring system looking for rusted components, water residue or suspicious corrosion.
10. Inspect the undercarriage of other components for evidence of rust and flaking metal that would not normally be associated with late model vehicles.

[Read about the legislation](#)



While these inspection suggestions will not detect flood damage in every case, they do provide some information to protect the consumer from purchasing a vehicle damaged by water or flood. Mechanics at dealerships or repair shops can also be helpful with the inspection of used vehicles.



[Return to nada.org/LegislativeAffairs](#)

**30 YEARS OF F&I EXPERIENCE**  [LEARN MORE](#)

[Home](#) | [Visitors Agreement/Privacy Policy](#) | [Site Map](#)

© 2011 National Automobile Dealers Association  
8400 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102, (703) 821-7000, [help@nada.org](mailto:help@nada.org)