

*****Before You Buy Vessel/OHV/Snowmobile*****

Have you ever thought about riding the public trails or riding the waves? Boats, Snowmobiles, and ATV's can be expensive. Purchasing used vessel/vehicles **could** be the answer.

Iowa law requires seller(s) to provide the following to the buyer(s) at the time of purchase

- All paperwork must be in seller's name
- Bill of sale or proof of ownership
- Title, if the vehicle or vessel has one. See titling paragraph below.
- If not titled, registration signed over to the buyer

Does my vessel/vehicle have a title?

- Vessels 17 feet or longer purchased after January 1, 1988 must have a title. A title can be purchased for any vessel. Once it has been titled, it must stay titled.
- ATVs or OHVs registered as an ATV purchased after January 1, 2000 must be titled.
- Snowmobiles purchased after January 1, 1988 must have a title.

You can call the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, your local County Recorder or your local DNR Officer to check to make sure that the vehicle/vessel that you are trying to purchase has no open liens and that the vehicle/vessel has not been reported stolen. You might also check to make sure the person selling it to you is the owner and has authority to sell it. If the vehicle/vessel is being sold at auction, a web-site or even a garage sale, the proper paperwork is still required before it can be registered.

Other things to watch for or ask for:

- Records/Maintenance
- Repairs made /Aftermarket parts
- Registration numbers, VIN numbers/hull ID – are they authentic? Do not purchase if they have scraped or altered in any way.

Your insurance company is also a good source of reference. They should be able to inform you if the vehicle/vessel has ever had a claim or been reported stolen. You can also check to see if there are any insurance requirements.

Iowa law requires transfer of ownership within 30 days.

Buying a used vessel/vehicle from one of the many dealers which are licensed through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources can help alleviate many potential problems, because they know legal requirements.

[Iowa Boat Dealers](#)

[Iowa OHV Dealers](#)

[Iowa Snowmobile Dealers](#)

By taking some simple precautions and doing a bit of research, buyers can prevent problems, meet their legal responsibilities, and ride those waves or hit that trail sooner.

Remember, it isn't fun till the paperwork is done!

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Bonding>