Every vehicle or piece of farm machinery or construction equipment discussed in this brochure **must have a PVIN that is legible**. If any part of the PVIN plate is defaced, altered, covered, or destroyed, a replacement plate must be applied for by the seller before the vehicle or equipment is sold (RSMo 301.390).

The PVIN location for cars and pick-ups (1981 and newer) is on or near the dash area in plain sight as you look through the windshield. Vehicles older than 1981 or other types of equipment may have different locations for the PVIN. To inquire about PVIN locations call your local vehicle dealer or Missouri State Highway Patrol troop headquarters' Motor Vehicle Inspection Division.

You may get answers to your questions by calling your local:

- License Office/Contract Office (These designated offices handle license plate and registration transactions for the state.)
- Missouri State Highway Patrol:
  Ask for Motor Vehicle Inspection Division when you call.

Current phone numbers and other information are listed on the following web sites:

Missouri State Highway Patrol
www.mshp.dps.mo.gov

DOR Contract Offices
www.dor.mo.gov

For the Missouri State Highway Patrol Headquarters nearest you, consult your local phone directory.

Emergency Assistance
1-800-525-5555 or cellular *55

Road Conditions
1-800-222-6400 or
(573) 526-8828

METH Hotline
1-888-823-METH (6384)

Sex Offender Registry
1-888-SOR-MSHP
(1-888-767-6747)

Published by:
Missouri State Highway Patrol
1510 East Elm Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 751-3313
V/TDD: (573) 751-3313

www.mshp.dps.mo.gov
mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov

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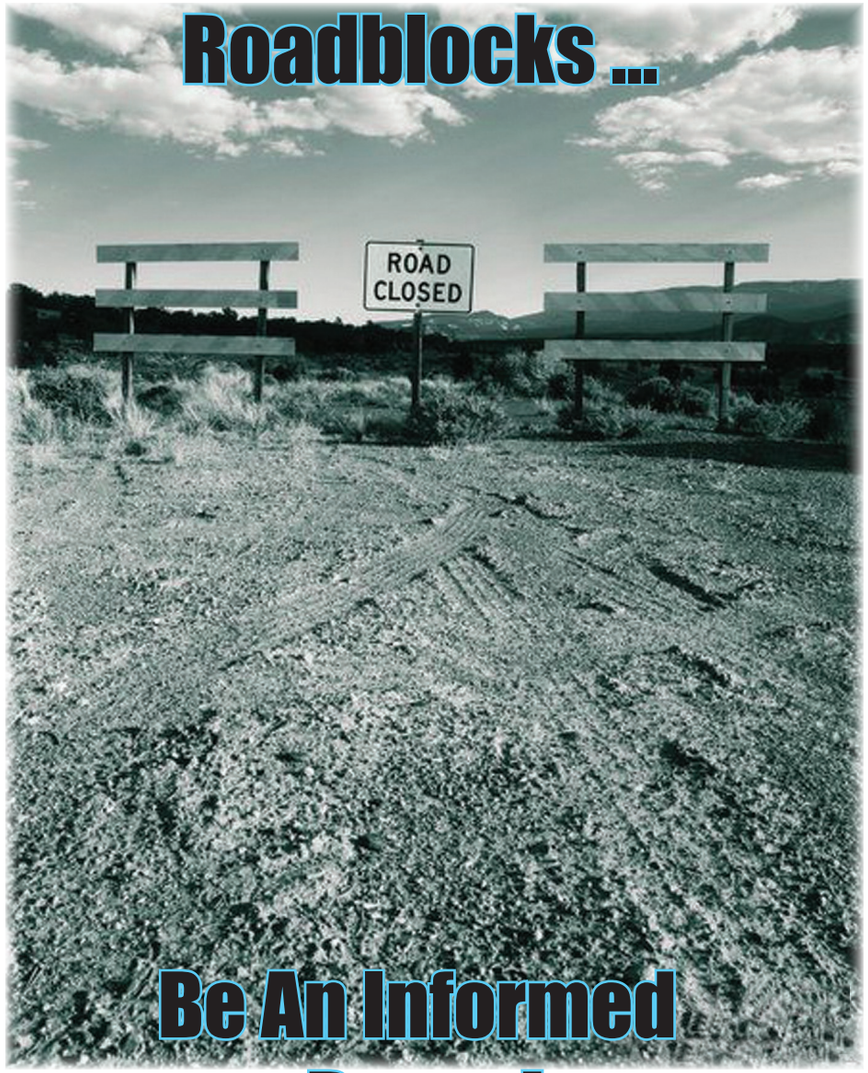
Avoid Titling Roadblocks ...



Be An Informed Buyer !

•TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL VEHICLE PURCHASES•

Don't Be A Victim.

Arm yourself with knowledge of Missouri law concerning proof of ownership (a certificate of title) to vehicles and equipment we use every-day, such as:

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)	Mobile Homes
Automobiles	Motorcycles
Buses	Recreational Vehicles (RVs)
Boats	Trailers
Boat Motors	Trucks
Low Speed Vehicles (LSV)	

All of those listed above must have a proper title (with the exception of some boats and boat motors). It is against the law to buy or sell any of those items without a title (RSMo 301.210).

The key to avoiding registration problems with these vehicles is to investigate and ask questions before you buy.

When you are considering buying a motor vehicle, mobile home, trailer, RV, boat, or boat motor you should:

1. Ask the seller to see the title.
2. Compare all the descriptive information from the title to the actual vehicle or piece of equipment.
3. Make sure every digit of the Vehicle Identification Number on the title is correct when comparing it to the Public Vehicle Identification Number (PVIN) on the vehicle or equipment.
4. Look at the name(s) on the title. Is the last named owner on the title the person selling this vehicle to you?
5. Is it a Salvage Certificate of Title or a Junking Certificate? If so, there is more to know before being able to license and drive salvaged vehicles. Vehicles with Junking Certificates cannot be licensed to drive ... ever.

If there is a problem with any of the above, STOP, and investigate further BEFORE buying.

Errors or discrepancies should be corrected by the seller before you take possession of the vehicle.

A seller is not allowed to keep the title to your vehicle while you are making payments to him. You must list his name as a lienholder on the Title Application (DOR Form 108), and you will have possession of the title the entire time you are making payments to him for the vehicle. After you pay off the vehicle, the lienholder will give you a letter or Lien Release (RSMo 301.620).

Following the sale or transfer of a motor vehicle or trailer (excluding salvage or junk titled vehicles) the seller must fill out a Notice of Sale (DOR-5049) or Bill of Sale (DOR-1957) form and submit it to the Department of Revenue within 30 days of the date of transfer. Refer to RSMo 301.196 and DOR's website for detailed information on Notice of Sale.

It is the seller's responsibility to have a truck, bus, car, RV, or motorcycle pass Missouri Safety Inspection BEFORE it is sold, if the vehicle is not a salvage or junked vehicle. This applies to sellers who are licensed dealers or individuals (RSMo 307.380).

If the vehicle has a Salvage Certificate of Title or Junking Certificate, the buyer should sign a Junk, Salvage, or Rebuilding affidavit (SHP-498) then give a copy of that affidavit to the seller (RSMO 307.380).