

## Changing ownership of a car in Spain

A new or used vehicle bought (or leased) from a dealership will almost certainly have the registration and ownership transfer handled by the dealer. But if it's a private sale then the process is a little different.

### The sale and exchange

When buying a second-hand used car it is important to see originals of all the paperwork. This is particularly important when buying privately, to ensure that the person selling the car has the right to sell it. Be sure to match the name on the paperwork to those on the sellers' personal identification document.

The transfer of ownership form (Solicitud de Transmisión de Vehículos) is available [HERE](#) All forms are in Spanish so it may be best to employ the services of a gestor or a friend fluent in Spanish.

This is an [English language](#) version of the process from the DGT.

Make an appointment at the DGT [HERE](#) and ensure you have all the correct documentation with you.

### Registration of the Change of Owner (*Transferencia de Vehículos*)

Transfer of ownership is finalised at the *Jefatura de Tráfico*. The buyer and seller may go together to submit paperwork, or do it individually. It is possible to visit the traffic office in person or to employ a *gestor* to do so.

### What the seller should do for you

The seller should have notified the local Traffic Office (*Jefatura de Tráfico*) of sale or transfer. Take a copy of the registration document and completed transfer of ownership form to the traffic department.

Within 15 days of the sale, the buyer should be able to provide the seller with proof that the paperwork has been completed. If this is not possible the seller should contact the local Traffic Office to inform them that the car has been sold (*notificación de venta*).

Use the *Notificación Transmisión de Vehículos* form.

- Notification of sale form (*Notificación Transmisión de Vehículos*)

It is important to make sure that the transfer is properly completed, otherwise the seller may be held responsible for the unpaid tax or fines

incurred by the new owner. The seller may apply to the local Traffic Office for deregistration papers (*baja de vehículo*) to avoid later consequences.

- Application form (*Solicitud de baja de vehículo*) can be downloaded from the DGT website

### **What you as a buyer must do**

The buyer must register the vehicle in their name at the vehicle registry (*Registro de Vehículos*) at the local traffic department (*Jefatura de Tráfico*).

This transfer of the vehicle's registration document must be made within 30 days of purchase. The cost of the transfer is currently 4 percent of the value of the vehicle, however if a buyer chooses to use the help of a *gestor*, the buyer will pay an additional fee for this service.

### **The documents to supply are:**

- The copy of the transfer of ownership form (*Solicitud de transmisión de vehículos*)
- The copy of the sale agreement and a copy of the ID of the seller
- The relevant paperwork provided by the seller:
  - Vehicle registration document (*Permiso de Circulación*)
  - ITV certificate as proof of roadworthiness
  - Receipt for municipal vehicle tax

In addition, a foreign buyer will need to provide the following documents to complete the transfer:

- Proof of habitation in Spain as outlined above (proof by means of *residencia*, NIE certificate, local town registry document, *Certificado de Empadronamiento*, property title deeds or rental contract)