

Registering your vehicle in Spain

The registration process for a new car is normally handled by the dealership where you purchased the vehicle.

The dealership will typically handle the paperwork (*permiso de circulación*) for the transfer of ownership as well. This makes it the easiest situation out of the three. In addition, many dealers can also offer insurance contracts. This will make the process of getting you behind the wheel of your new car fast and easy.

Even if the dealer is handling the paperwork, nevertheless, it can be a good thing to understand some of the particulars of the process. The following is a list of the details which are normally handled when registering a vehicle:

Registration Fee

There is a registration fee of €91.80 (or €25.60 for mopeds).

The following documents are needed to complete the registration process:

- A roadworthiness certificate (both the pink and blue sheets)
- The *diligencia de venta*, which contains information about the buyer and the dealer who is selling the vehicle
- An official form of identification (e.g. ID card, Spanish driver's license, passport or residence card)

You will need to provide proof of payment in order to complete the registration process.

The process for buying used cars can vary, depending on whether you're purchasing from a dealership or a private party. If bought from a used car dealer, in most cases, they will handle all the paperwork. The following steps explain the process of registering a vehicle which is used when buying from a private party.

Vehicle Purchase

When buying a used car, it is highly recommended to see original versions of all paperwork and documentation, especially if you're buying from a private seller. The seller should provide you with the following documentation:

- Vehicle registration certificate
- An ITV test certificate, verifying proof of roadworthiness
- Proof of payment of road tax (crucial, or you will be liable for any unpaid taxes after purchasing the vehicle)
- A copy of personal identification document

In order to ensure he or she has the right to sell the vehicle, be sure to match the name on the sellers' official ID to the one on the paperwork.

To conclude the purchase of the vehicle, you should together create a signed sales agreement or have the seller provide an invoice for the purchase. Regardless of which document you choose to use, it should include the following details:

- Vehicle details, including the make, model, vehicle identification number (VIN), etc.
- Names of buyer and seller
- Sales price
- Date and time the transfer of ownership takes place (this is important in case there are any open traffic violations or fines associated with the car, so they can be directed to the correct person)

The final document needed to conclude the purchase is a transfer of ownership form. Ideally, the buyer should print and bring two copies of the form with, in case the seller doesn't have one already. Both the buyer and seller will need to sign the form, with each party keeping a copy.

Registering the Change of Ownership

As the buyer of a used car, you will need to register the vehicle in your name in the vehicle registry with the Registry of the Directorate General of Traffic.

Paying Transfer Tax

When registering a vehicle which has been purchased used from someone else, you will also need to pay a transfer tax to the local municipality. In doing so, you will need to provide the above mentioned documentation as well.

For those living in Andalusia, Aragón, Asturias, Castilla y Leon, Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, Madrid, Murcia and Navarre, you can complete this process online. You will then receive an Electronic Transfer Code (CET) as proof that you have paid the required tax.

The vehicle's registration document must be transferred within 30 days of the date of purchase. Currently, the cost of the transfer is around 4% of the value of the vehicle.

The process for registering a vehicle purchased outside of Spain is a little more complicated. The following explain the necessary documentation and procedures which must take place.

Necessary Documentation for Imported Cars

To legally enter the country with your vehicle, you have to have the proper documentation. You will need the following:

- Bill of sale (sometimes necessary to bring a translation)
- Original vehicle title certificate
- Single Administration Document from the Customs Office (for new/used vehicles purchased outside of the EU)
- Passport for identification

Import Tax and Duty

The next step is to pay import tax and duties.

Owners of vehicles purchased outside of Spain will need to pay an import tax and duty. The rates for the import duty are controlled on the EU level, and are as follows:

- Normal Cars - 10%
- Motorcycles (depending on engine capacity) - 6-8%
- Trucks - 22%

The rate of the import duty will be applied to the market price of the vehicle, and reductions will be made based on its age. On top of the import duty, an import tax (VAT) of 21% will need to be paid.

Visit the official [DGT](#) website for more information and consider the option of using a gestor to ensure full legality of your vehicle.

Download the Vehicle Registration form (*matriculación ordinaria de vehículos*) [HERE](#)