

TAKE CONTROL BEFORE YOU ROLL

Buying a Used Car



Used cars are sold through a variety of outlets: franchise and independent dealers, rental car companies, leasing companies and used car superstores. You can even buy a used car on the Internet.

Some dealers are attracting customers with "no-haggle prices," "factory certified" used cars and better warranties. Consider the dealer's reputation when you evaluate these ads. Also, keep in mind that buying from a private party is very different from buying from a dealer. **Contact the AUTO FRAUD SECTION of the Louisiana Department of Justice at 1-800-351-4889** for more information on warranties, implied warranties and for sale "as is" or no warranty when buying a used car.

Before You Buy a Used Car

- Examine the car yourself using an inspection checklist. You can find a checklist in many of the magazine articles, books and Internet sites that deal with buying a used car.
- Test drive the car under varied road conditions on hills, highways, and in stop-and-go traffic.
- Ask for the car's maintenance record. If the owner doesn't have copies, contact the dealership or repair shop where most of the work was done. They may share their files with you.
- Talk to the previous owner, especially if the present owner is unfamiliar with the car's history.
- Have the car inspected by a mechanic you hire. Once the vehicle has been inspected, ask the mechanic for a written report with a cost estimate for all necessary repairs. Be sure the report

includes the vehicles make, model and VIN (Vehicle Identification Number). If you decide to make a purchase offer to the dealer after considering the inspection's results, you can use the estimated repair costs to negotiate the price of the vehicle.