



What is a Salvage Vehicle?

Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) issues Minnesota salvage titles to vehicles regardless of vehicle type, age or value.

A Minnesota salvage title is required when:

- An insurance company acquires a damaged vehicle after paying a total loss claim
- A vehicle's owner is self-insured and that vehicle's damage is more than 80 percent of its value
- A vehicle has an out-of-state salvage title

Minnesota salvage titles are clearly marked: **SALVAGE**

Effective January 1, 2023, Minnesota licensed dealers are required to obtain a signed damage disclosure from any buyer purchasing a salvage branded vehicle to maintain for their records.

Vehicle Registration

Registration may be renewed only once on a salvage title. It is to your advantage to clear the salvage status of the vehicle in a timely manner.

How to clear the salvage status of a vehicle:

In order to remove "salvage" from the title of a vehicle, the vehicle is required to pass a DVS salvage inspection. The inspection is not for safety purposes, but to deter fraud and theft.

Visit drive.mn.gov to find an office location and contact information to make an appointment or by calling (651) 282-2173.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DVS!

Email: dvs.motor.vehicles@state.mn.us
Motor Vehicle Questions: (651) 297-2126
Office Locations: (651) 297-2005
drive.mn.gov
TTY/TDD: (651) 282-6555

What you need to bring to the salvage inspection:

- The salvage title
 - If you applied for title before the inspection, you will receive instructions on how to arrange the inspection.
- Declaration of Reconstruction (PS2015) form completed by the owner at the time of repair.
- Receipts on original company letterhead for any major parts that were replaced

Once the inspection is complete and successful, submit the documents listed above to a Deputy Registrar office, along with a \$35 salvage inspection fee and a filing fee. The salvage status will be removed from the vehicle's title and replaced with a "prior salvage" brand.

Permanent Brands on Titles

If a vehicle is subject to branding, the Minnesota title brand is permanent and will appear on all subsequent titles issued. A brand is a label included on a title describing the current status of a vehicle.

Reference: Minnesota Statutes, sections [168A.01, subd. 6a](#); [325F.6641](#); [325F.6642](#)

Motorcycles

- A motorcycle that has been altered from its original construction is subject to the “RECONST” brand.
- The title of a motorcycle that has been constructed using new aftermarket parts will be marked “Assembled.”

Gross Weight Vehicles

- A commercial vehicle that has been reconstructed is subject to the “RECONST” brand.

Brands or notations on Minnesota Titles

Prior Salvage

This is stamped on a Minnesota title when:

- The salvage status of a vehicle is cleared.
- The foreign state title contains a brand such as “prior salvage,” “damaged,” “rebuilt,” “reconditioned,” etc. The vehicle must have been repaired prior to entering Minnesota.

Flood

This is stamped on a Minnesota title when:

- A title application indicates that the vehicle has been classified as a loss by flood or water damage.
- A foreign state title is surrendered that has the notation “FLOOD” or “WATER DAMAGE.”

Reconstructed

This is stamped on a Minnesota title when:

- A vehicle has been altered from its original construction by the removal, addition, or substitution of essential parts.

Rebuilt

This is stamped on a Minnesota title when:

- The vehicle has sustained damage in excess of 80 percent and the “PRIOR SALVAGE” brand does not apply.

Assembled

This is not a brand but a permanent notation that appears on a Minnesota title when a motorcycle has been assembled using new aftermarket parts.

Lemon Law Vehicle

Effective August 1, 2008, the title for any vehicle subject to Minnesota’s lemon law ([325F.665](#)) and all vehicles with out-of-state titles that bear the term “Lemon Law Vehicle,” or any similar term, will be issued a Minnesota title stamped with “Lemon Law Vehicle.”

Hazardous Waste Contaminated Vehicle

The “Hazardous Waste Contaminated Vehicle” brand will appear on titles of a motor vehicle that has been contaminated by substances, chemicals, or items of any kind used in the manufacture of methamphetamine or any part of the manufacturing process, or the by-products or degradants of manufacturing methamphetamine.