



What is a Salvage Vehicle?

Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) issues Minnesota salvage titles to late-model vehicles (six model years old and newer) and high-value vehicles (\$9,000 value prior to damage or a vehicle with a manufacturer's gross weight rating over 26,000 pounds, and not late-models) when:

- An insurance company has acquired vehicle ownership through payment of a total loss claim
- A vehicle owned by a self-insured owner sustains damage in excess of 80 percent of the vehicle's value
- A title from another state for a late-model or high-value vehicle that was transferred through an insurance company, was issued a salvage title by that state, or was damaged in excess of its value

The front of a Minnesota Salvage title is clearly stamped in *red*: **SALVAGE-MUST BE INSPECTED**.

How to clear the salvage status of a vehicle:

- Submit the following items to your local Deputy Registrar's office: Surrendered title, completed Declaration of Reconstruction (PS2015) form, and original receipts
- Surrender a passed vehicle inspection report (see column to the right)
- Pay the \$35 salvage inspection and \$10 filing fee

Vehicle Registration

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

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DVS!

Email: dvs.motor.vehicles@state.mn.us

Motor Vehicle Questions: (651) 297-2126

Office Locations: (651) 297-2005
dvs.dps.mn.gov

TTY/TDD: (651) 282-6555

Salvage Inspections

A salvage vehicle inspection is required to clear the salvage status of a vehicle. A DVS Inspection Specialist conducts the inspection.

Appointments are encouraged; office location and contact information is available at dvs.dps.mn.gov or by calling (651) 284-1234.

This is not a safety inspection. It is conducted to deter fraud and theft.

At the time of inspection, you must provide:

- The salvage title; if you applied for title before the inspection, you will receive a photocopy of the title and documents you surrendered with instructions on how to arrange the inspection.
- Declaration of Reconstruction (PS2015) completed by the owner at the time of repair.
- Original letterhead receipts for any major parts replaced.

After successfully completing the inspection, you must submit the inspection report at a Deputy Registrar office along with the other items listed to the left under, "How to clear the salvage status of a vehicle."

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 vehicle not subject to branding is issued a clear title.

Reference: Minnesota Statutes, sections [168A.01, subd. 6a](#); [325F.6641](#); [325F.6642](#); [325F.6644](#)

Motorcycles

- A motorcycle that has been altered from its original construction is subject to the “RECONST” brand (*see below*)
- Motorcycles are exempt from prior salvage branding
- The title of a motorcycle that has been constructed of new aftermarket parts will have on it the permanent notation “Assembled”

Gross Weight Vehicles

- A commercial vehicle with a vehicle gross weight rating of 16,000 pounds or more is exempt from branding unless it has been reconstructed, in which case the title will be stamped “RECONST”

Brands on Minnesota Titles

Prior Salvage

The brand 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

The brand FLOOD DAMAGED appears on a Minnesota title when:

- The application for title 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

The brand “RECONST” appears on a Minnesota title when: a vehicle has been altered from its original construction by the removal, addition, or substitution of essential parts.

Rebuilt

The brand appears on the 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 legend that appears on a Minnesota title when a motorcycle has been assembled from 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.”