REMEMBER: You’re ONLY protected by OMVIC and Ontario consumer protection laws when you buy from a registered dealer!

Look for the OMVIC-Registered Dealer decal or search online at omvic.ca

What Is a Curbsider?
Curbsiders are illegal, unlicensed vehicle dealers. They often pose as private sellers, though some operate from small automotive businesses (repair shops, rental companies, etc.). Curbsiders not only misrepresent themselves – they often misrepresent the vehicles they sell: many are previous write-offs with undisclosed accident repairs or are odometer-tampered.

8 Signs You May Be Dealing with a Curbsider:

1. The seller has multiple vehicles for sale
2. The vehicle is priced below market value
3. The vehicle is not registered in the seller’s name OR has only been registered in the seller’s name for a short period of time
4. The seller doesn’t provide a Used Vehicle Information Package (UVIP) or discourages the purchase of a history report (carfax.ca)
5. The ‘private’ seller appears to operate from a business
6. The ‘private’ seller is using a yellow service licence plate (or white/red dealer plate) to drive the vehicle
7. The seller discourages a mechanical inspection
8. The seller won’t provide a receipt or proof of purchase/contract

Numbers don’t lie...
0297142
Or do they?
0125386

Curbiders are lying in wait in online marketplaces, ready to pounce on unsuspecting consumers. Protect yourself. Learn how to spot a curbsider.

Are You Protected?
ONLY when you buy from a registered dealer do you benefit from consumer protection. If you buy privately and encounter problems, OMVIC cannot assist.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

omvic.ca
1-800-943-6002 x3942
consumers@omvic.on.ca
OMVIC_Consumers

Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council (OMVIC)
OMVIC_Official

REPORT A CURBSIDER ANONYMOUSLY:
nocurbs@omvic.on.ca
1-888-NOCURBS (662-8727)

DON’T GET SCAMMED!

Does the car of your future have a shady past?

TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF WHEN BUYING A VEHICLE PRIVATELY

BUYING PRIVATELY? Beware of Curbsiders

The BENEFITS: OMVIC-Registered Dealer

The BENEFITS: Private Seller
Follow These 8 Tips

1. **Ask Questions**
   - How long was the vehicle owned? Are there maintenance records? Why are they selling?

2. **Be Bold — Know Who You’re Buying From**
   - Ask the seller for ID and compare it to the vehicle ownership document – they should match
   - If a “private” seller has more than one vehicle for sale, this is an indication you may be dealing with a curbsider

3. **Beware of Vehicles Priced Below Market Value**
   - In order to sell vehicles as quickly and easily as possible, curbsiders may offer a “too good to be true” price. They can do this because the vehicles are often odometer-tampered or rebuilt wrecks.
   - Compare advertised prices
   - Review online resources to help determine vehicle values/prices:
     - Canadian Black Book (wholesale): canadianblackbook.com
     - Consult member-based consumer groups that also provide vehicle pricing information:
       - Automobile Protection Association: apac.ca
       - Car Help Canada: carhelpcanada.com
   - Remember: No one sells vehicles for less than they are worth. If a deal seems too good to be true, that’s a warning, not an opportunity.

4. **Research the Vehicle’s History**
   - Carfax Canada (carfax.ca) history reports may provide useful information:
     - Reported collisions/incidents
     - Existing liens
     - Past odometer readings
     - Out-of-province registration information
     - Ministry of Transportation branding information (e.g. salvage/rebuilt)
     - Used Vehicle Information Package (UVIP) – By law, private vehicle sellers MUST provide the purchaser with a UVIP that includes:
       - The current registered owner and vehicle ownership history (in Ontario)
       - Lien information
       - Past odometer readings
       - Estimated fair market value (if available)
   - If the seller discourages you from buying a history report or UVIP, this may be an attempt to hide significant information about the vehicle’s past use, history and/or condition

5. **Put the Test in Test-drive**
   - Take the vehicle on the highway – not just around the block. Some problems might only be apparent at highway speeds.
   - Partner up: bring a family member or friend; they may notice something you don’t.
   - Note: For security reasons, if meeting a seller alone, consider using a police-operated safe trade zone and make sure someone you trust knows the details of your meeting.

6. **Have the Vehicle Inspected**
   - Even if you get maintenance records from the seller, have the vehicle inspected by a licensed mechanic! A mechanic may find problems the seller is trying to hide or is unaware of.
     - If the seller refuses an inspection, don’t stay – walk away!

7. **Get Proof of Purchase**
   - Obtain documentation (or a contract) that provides the:
     - Price paid
     - Seller and purchaser’s information (names and addresses)
     - Vehicle information: VIN, make, model, year
   - If the seller refuses to provide a receipt/contract that includes his/her name and address, don’t stay – walk away!

8. **Pay Attention to Location and Inventory**
   - When first contacting the seller, simply state that you are calling/writing about the “car for sale”. If the seller asks “which one”, you may be dealing with a curbsider.
     - If the vehicle is offered for sale at a business (e.g. body or repair shop) that is not registered with OMVIC, don’t stay – walk away!
     - Check if a business is registered at omvic.ca or ask to see the seller’s OMVIC licence.
     - If the seller is using a yellow service licence plate (or white/red dealer plate), there is a very good chance the vehicle is not registered to them.