

How to fill out MV-51 — Certification of Sale or Transfer for Non-Titled Vehicles, Boats, Snowmobiles and All-Terrain Vehicles

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/forms/new-york/mv-51-
certification-of-sale-non-
titled/

New York · written against MV-51 (12/25), issued under New York Penal Law section 210.45, named on the form itself

For the cars New York never titled. The state issues no certificate for a motor vehicle of model year 1972 or older, and for those the ownership document is a transferable registration - or, where the current owner never registered it, this certification plus the bills of sale that show how it got to them.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank MV-51 from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles at <https://dmv.ny.gov/forms/mv51.pdf> — always take the current revision from the agency rather than a copy. Print this and keep it beside you while you complete theirs.

Every line, in the order you meet it

1	YOU	Seller block	Your name, mailing address, city or post office, county, state and ZIP. Watch out: County is asked for on both halves of this form. It is not a formality on a vehicle with no title record - it is part of how the DMV traces the registration history.
2	YOU	Last registration	The year and state of the last registration, and the plate number. Watch out: Dig out the old registration document if you still have it. On a vehicle last plated decades ago this line is often the only thing that connects the car to any record at all.
3	YOU	Last registrant or previous owner	The name and address of whoever held it before you. Watch out: This has to match the bills of sale you are attaching. The whole form is an assertion of continuity, and this is the link in the chain the DMV checks first.
4	BUYER	Purchaser block	The buyer's name, address, county and the date of purchase. Watch out: The printed warning above this block is aimed at them, not you: before you purchase, find out whether there are any liens on it, and one way is to contact your county clerk's office.
5	YOU	Non-titled property description	Year, make, body type, colour, weight, cylinders, fuel and the identification number on the correct one of three labelled rules. Watch out: Use the vehicle line for a car, the hull line for a boat and the snowmobile line for a snowmobile. Writing a car's number on the hull rule is a rejection rather than a typo.
6	YOU	Both certifications	You certify that you own it and have sold it; the purchaser certifies that they bought it. Both sign in full and date it. Watch out: Sign in full - the form says so twice, once under each rule. False statements here are punishable under section 210.45 of the Penal Law.

What gets this one rejected

- A dealer using it. The second instruction says a dealer cannot use this form to sell a vehicle.
- Sending it in alone. It must be accompanied by bills of sale showing continuity of ownership from all previous owners - one certification with a gap behind it proves nothing.
- Supporting documents with corrections on them. The form's note is that the documents accompanying it will not be accepted if there are any changes or alterations on them.
- Only one of the two parties signing. There are two certification blocks and the form expects both.

☒ Amber is what you write ☐ Grey is a block somebody else completes The completed example follows overleaf.

Read off MV-51 (12/25) and the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles's own pages, current as of 2026-08-23. Plain-language help with a form, not legal advice — where this and the agency differ, the agency governs.

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**Department of
Motor Vehicles**

**CERTIFICATION OF SALE OR TRANSFER FOR NON-TITLED
VEHICLES, BOATS, SNOWMOBILES, AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES**

dmv.ny.gov

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Print in ink or type all entries.
2. This certification is to be used if the vehicle is sold by a person other than a dealer. A dealer cannot use this form to sell a vehicle.
3. This certification must be accompanied by bills of sale showing continuity of ownership from all previous owners.

Note: This form must be accompanied by supporting documents which will not be accepted if there are any changes or alterations on them.

1 Name of Seller (Last, First, M.I.) <i>Havemeyer, Rosalind T.</i>				
Mailing Address (Number and Street) <i>318 Wurts St</i>				Apt. #
City or Post Office <i>Kingston</i>		County <i>Ulster</i>	State <i>NY</i>	Zip Code <i>12401</i>
Year of Last Registration <i>1998</i>	State of Last Registration <i>NY</i>	Plate No. <i>8442-BG</i>		
3 Name of Last Registrant or Previous Owner (Last, First, M.I.) <i>Havemeyer, Marion E.</i>				
Address of Last Registrant (Number, Street, Apt. #, City, State, and Zip Code) <i>318 Wurts St, Kingston, NY 12401</i>				

PURCHASER: Before you purchase the vehicle, find out whether there are any liens on it. One way to do this is to contact your County Clerk's office.

4 Name of Purchaser (Last, First, M.I.) <i>Baffa, Teodoro</i>				
Mailing Address (Number, Street, Apt. #) <i>91 Mill St</i>				
City or Post Office <i>Rhinebeck</i>		County <i>Dutchess</i>	State <i>NY</i>	Zip Code <i>12572</i>
Date of Purchase <i>08/12/2026</i>				

NON-TITLED PROPERTY DESCRIPTION				
Year <i>1969</i>	Make <i>Chevrolet</i>	Body Type <i>Pickup</i>	Color <i>Green</i>	Maximum Performance Speed of Motorcycle
Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) <i>CE149Z812744</i>		Unladen Weight <i>3,600</i> Lbs.		Cylinders <i>8</i>
OR Hull Identification Number (HIN)		☒ Gas ☐ Propane ☐ Electric ☐ Flex ☐ Diesel ☐ CNG		
OR Snowmobile Vehicle Identification Number (SVIN)				

VEHICLE INSPECTION		
Date of Last Inspection	Inspection Sticker Number	Station Number

CERTIFICATION OF SELLER	
I certify that I am the owner of the vehicle described on this form, and that I have sold this vehicle to the purchaser named on the form.	
X <i>Rosalind Havemeyer</i> (Sign Name in Full – If Not Individual Seller, Give Title)	<i>08/12/2026</i> (Date)

CERTIFICATION OF PURCHASER	
I certify that I have purchased the vehicle described on this form from the seller named on the form.	
X <i>Teodoro Baffa</i> (Sign Name in Full – If Not Individual Purchaser, Give Title)	<i>08/12/2026</i> (Date)

