

How to fill out MV-401 — Application for Assignment of Special Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)

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Wyoming · written against MV-401 (12/23), issued under WYDOT Motor Vehicle Services; a Wyoming identification number is issued only to Wyoming residents, and the titling that follows is done by the county clerk

/forms/wyoming/mv-401-state-assigned-vin/

Some things a person owns and wants to sell have no identification number at all - a trailer welded up in a shop, a vehicle assembled from two others, something factory-built whose number plate has rusted away. Nothing without a number can be titled, so nothing without a number can be sold with paperwork. This application is how Wyoming issues one. Two sides: applicant details and what sort of vehicle it is, then a statement of facts explaining where the components came from and why there is no number, and finally a law enforcement inspection block on the reverse. The department is explicit that a Wyoming number goes only to Wyoming residents, and equally explicit about what has to travel with the application - a photograph, a fee of \$20.00, and proof of ownership of everything the thing was built out of.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank MV-401 from the Wyoming Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Services at <https://www.dot.state.wy.us/files/live/sites/wydot/files/shared/Motor%20Vehicle%20Services/MV-401%20STATE%20ASSIGNED%20VIN%20APP%201-19-24.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	Check you are eligible before anything else	The residency line printed between the address blocks: a Wyoming number is issued only to Wyoming residents. Watch out: The location address is the one that matters for the inspection. If the trailer is standing on a friend's place in another county, say so here rather than giving your own street twice.
2	YOU	Tick which of the two you are	Homemade trailer or trailer with a missing number, or other vehicles - and read the printed rules under whichever you ticked before filling in make and year. Watch out: Factory-built with the number missing goes in whichever box fits the vehicle type, and the make is then the factory name rather than the word homemade.
3	YOU	The vehicle row	Make, licence plate number if there is one, body style, year and the number of axles. Watch out: Unknown is not an acceptable year. For something you built, the year you finished it is the answer; for something assembled, the year of the oldest major component.
4	YOU	Assemble the documentation	A photograph of the completed vehicle or trailer, the \$20.00 fee, proof of ownership of every major component, proof of year for an assembled vehicle, and an identification number inspection. Watch out: Receipts for new steel count as proof that all materials are new, which is the branch of the rules a home-built trailer usually falls under. Keep them together in one envelope.
5	YOU	Answer the three questions on the reverse	Why the number is missing or why there is more than one, where the major components came from, and why the previous holder never titled or registered it. Watch out: Attach a continuation sheet if you need one - the form invites it. A cramped answer squeezed into three lines reads as evasive even when it is not.
6	YOU	Sign the affidavit	Sworn under penalty of perjury that you are the owner or builder, that no stolen parts were used, and that everything supplied is true and correct. Watch out: There is no notary on this form. The signature is enough - which is also why the felony warning above it is set in capitals.
7	OTHER	Have law enforcement complete step seven	The officer records the make, year and vehicle type, the number found or its absence, where it was located and any additional numbers, then signs with a badge number, agency and date. Watch out: A trailer made from a pickup box does not need this at all. Anything else does, and the officer needs to see the vehicle rather than photographs of it.

What gets this one rejected

- Writing unknown in the year box. The box says in its own heading that unknown is not acceptable, and the form tells you what to write instead depending on which of the two boxes you ticked.
- Sending it without the photograph. It is the first of the five numbered requirements and the department has no other way of seeing what it is assigning a number to.
- Skipping the statement of facts because the answers seem obvious. Step four makes proof of ownership and completion of the statement of facts a single requirement - the narrative is part of the proof, not a covering note.
- Surrendering photocopies where originals are asked for. Original titles and certificates of origin for the vehicles used in the construction go with the application, all liens released, and in the applicant's name or assigned to them.
- Arranging an inspection for a trailer built out of a pickup box. The form exempts exactly that case, and the officer's time is better spent elsewhere.

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

APPLICATION FOR ASSIGNMENT OF SPECIAL VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)



STEP #1	APPLICANT INFORMATION				
	Applicant Name <i>Verlene A. Tiegen</i>			Daytime Phone Number <i>(307) 555-0148</i>	
	Location Address <i>1418 Cottonwood Loop</i>		City <i>Sheridan</i>	State WY	Zip <i>82801</i>
	Mailing Address <i>1418 Cottonwood Loop</i>		City <i>Sheridan</i>	State WY	ZIP <i>82801</i>
	Email Address <i>v.tiegen@example.com</i>				
STEP #2	*A Wyoming VIN can only be issued to Wyoming residents*				
	Check one: ☒ Homemade Trailer or Trailer with missing VIN - MAKE = "Homemade" or "Factory Make Name" if vehicle is factory made & VIN is missing - YEAR = Year completed if Homemade. If Factory made, provide proof of year; such as pictures from the internet or manufacturer catalogs. Previous titles and/or registrations are also considered proof of year. ☐ Other Vehicles - MAKE = "Assembled" if made from 2 or more Factory Makes; or "Factory Make Name" if vehicle is factory made & VIN is missing - YEAR = Year of oldest major component if Assembled. If Factory made, provide proof of year such as pictures from the internet or manufacturer catalogs. If vehicle is over 25 years old and applying for a CUSTOM vehicle license plate put year the vehicle resembles.				
STEP #3	Vehicle Make (Ford, Homemade, etc.) <i>Homemade</i>	License Plate Number (if available)	Body Style (4-Door Car, Pick-up, Flatbed Trailer, MC, etc.) <i>Flatbed Trailer</i>	Year (unknown is <u>not</u> acceptable) 2026	# of Axles 2
STEP #4	REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR ALL VEHICLES AND TRAILERS: - Include a picture of completed vehicle or trailer. FEE: \$20.00 (cash, check or money order made payable to WYDOT) Proof of Ownership and completion of statement of facts in Step #5 must accompany this application. Original Title/MSO/Certificate of Origin and copy of the Bill of Sale from the vehicle/motorcycle/trailer/etc. that was used in the construction; must accompany this application. This includes titles from other states. All liens must be released on the title(s), and the title(s) must be in the name of the applicant, or assigned to the applicant. If there is no Title/MSO/or Certificate of Origin, provide copies of the bill of sale for all major components used in the construction of the motor vehicle/motorcycle/trailer - If you did not build the vehicle, provide proof that the prior owner had authority to sell the vehicle to you. i.e.: Prior registration data; prior tax data; etc. If there is no Bill of Sale, provide a signed and dated statement in Step #5; explaining where, when and from whom the major components were purchased. Trailers or vehicles made from all new components must provide proof that all materials are new; such as receipts from where or whom you purchased the materials. Proof of year of oldest major component; for assembled motor vehicles only. VIN Inspection by law enforcement either in Step #7 or on a VIN inspection form used by law enforcement; trailers made from a pick-up box are not required to have a VIN inspection.				
FOR WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION USE ONLY					
Assigned State VIN		By		Date	

MV-401 (12/23)

TURN OVER



STEP #5	REQUIRED STATEMENT OF FACTS FOR ISSUANCE OF A WYOMING STATE ASSIGNED VIN-INCLUDE ATTACHMENT(S) IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED		
	Why is the VIN number missing or why is there more than one VIN on this vehicle or trailer?		
	<i>Newly built. The trailer did not exist before this year, so it has never carried a manufacturer number and there is no second number on it.</i>		
	If you constructed the trailer or vehicle, state where, when and from whom the major components were obtained or purchased.		
	<i>Built by the applicant at 1418 Cottonwood Loop, Sheridan, in July and August 2026, from new steel bought at Sheridan Iron Works. Receipts attached. No component came off another vehicle.</i>		
	If the person or business that you purchased or obtained the trailer or vehicle from never had it titled or registered; explain why.		
	<i>No previous holder exists. The trailer was fabricated new rather than bought, so nobody has had it to title or register.</i>		
STEP #6	ANY PERSON CONVICTED OF MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND IS SUBJECT TO A FINE AND/OR IMPRISONMENT. I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM under penalty of perjury that I am the owner/builder of the vehicle/trailer described above, and to the best of my knowledge no stolen parts were used during the construction of this vehicle/trailer and the information provided in this application and supporting documents is true and correct .		
	Signature of Applicant		Date
	<i>Verlene A. Tieggen</i>		<i>09/25/2026</i>
		✓ Please verify that you have read and completed Steps #1 through #7 ✓ Include original titles and MSO's if they pertain to your situation ✓ Include copies of the Bill(s) of Sale and/or receipts for new materials ✓ Include a photo of the completed vehicle or trailer ✓ Don't forget the twenty dollar (\$20.00) fee!	
	APPLICANT SHALL MAIL THIS APPLICATION, REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION AND \$20.00 FEE TO: WYDOT, ATTN: Motor Vehicle Services, 5300 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82009-3340 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: 307-777-4709 or email mvsplates@wyo.gov		
STEP #7-LAW ENFORCEMENT VIN INSPECTION	AFFIDAVIT OF INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF CORRECT "VIN" OR ABSENCE OF "VIN" TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER		
	Vehicle Make (Factory Make, Homemade, Assembled, etc)	Year (for homemade trailers, list year trailer was built)	Vehicle Type (Pickup, passenger car, boat trailer, etc.)
	VIN-If there is no VIN on the vehicle, write "No VIN found"		VIN Location
	If there is more than one VIN on the vehicle, list all VIN's found on the vehicle and where they are located. (Example: New cab on pickup. List VIN on cab AND VIN on frame so titles surrendered with application can be matched with vehicles used in construction.)		
	Additional VIN(S) (if applicable)		VIN Location
	At the request of the applicant for special state assigned vehicle identification number, I personally inspected the vehicle identification number(s) or absence of number on the described vehicle and the information entered by me is true and correct.		
	Print Officer's Name	Name of Law Enforcement Agency	Phone #
	Signature of Officer	Badge #	Date