AUTOCHECK VS CARFAX

AutoCheck vs Carfax, compared honestly: how Experian AutoCheck and the Carfax report gather their data, what the **AutoCheck score** means, auction and service records, both buyback programs, the real **free report** routes, the **Carfax price**, and a cheaper alternative.

1–100	$44.99	$14.99
AutoCheck Score scale, read with its range	Carfax single report, widely quoted	CarCheckerVIN full report, no subscription

CarCheckerVIN

www.carcheckervin.com/autocheck-vs-carfax

Free VIN check · VIN decoder · Vehicle history reports

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ABOUT THIS AUTOCHECK VS CARFAX GUIDE

The **AutoCheck vs Carfax** question comes up the moment you get serious about a used car. Both sell a vehicle history report built from the 17-character VIN, both claim deep data, and both run a buyback program. This guide shows where they really differ, where they overlap, and when you need neither of them at full price.

It is published by **CarCheckerVIN (carcheckervin.com)**, which runs a free VIN check and sells its own vehicle history report. Every rule we quote about the AutoCheck Score and AutoCheck Buyback Protection was read on Experian's own autocheck.com pages in November 2026, and every Carfax Buyback Guarantee rule comes from Carfax's published terms and conditions. CarCheckerVIN is independent and is not affiliated with Experian, AutoCheck or Carfax.

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FREE VIN CHECK

Check the car while you read

Enter any 17-character VIN at **carcheckervin.com/free-vin-check** for the decoded vehicle and a free preview of its history records: no card, no sign-up. If the preview shows something worth a closer look, the full CarCheckerVIN report is $14.99, about a third of a Carfax.

How to use this guide

Buying one car

Read Chapters 1, 9, 10 and 11, then follow the buyer's sequence on page 23 before you pay for anything.

Comparing reports

Chapters 3 to 8 go topic by topic: data, the score, auctions, service, titles and both buyback programs.

Dealer or fleet

Chapter 12 covers AutoCheck for dealers, Carfax for dealers and wholesale report options.

BUYER'S SHORTCUT

WHERE TO GET A VEHICLE HISTORY REPORT

You don't have to pick a side in the AutoCheck vs Carfax debate before you know anything about the car. Start free, narrow the list, and pay only for the vehicles that survive.

OUR PICK

CarCheckerVIN · www.carcheckervin.com

- **Free VIN check** with the decoded vehicle and a history preview
- **Full vehicle history report: $14.99**, no subscription
- **Packs:** 3 for $35.99, 5 for $54.99, 10 for $89.99 ($9 a report)
- Search by VIN, by U.S. license plate, or paste a list of VINs
- Title brands and NMVTIS title records
- Odometer readings, owner count, lien and impound records
- Insurance total-loss records and auction sales with photos
- Service records, open recalls, factory specs, market value

Run a free VIN check at carcheckervin.com/free-vin-check →

Your options, side by side

Where	Cost	Best for
CarCheckerVIN	Preview free; report $14.99	Title brands, NMVTIS title records, odometer, auctions with photos and liens for a third of Carfax's price
Experian AutoCheck	Free AutoCheck Score; report priced on autocheck.com	The 1–100 AutoCheck Score and wholesale auction announcements
Carfax	Widely quoted at $44.99	Service and maintenance records; free on many dealer listings
Free on listings	Free (the seller paid)	Carfax on Carfax listings and many dealer sites; AutoCheck at CarMax and on many eBay Motors listings
NICB VINCheck	Free, 5 searches a day	Stolen-not-recovered and insurer-reported salvage records

How to choose in two minutes

- [ ] Is a report already free on the listing? Read it first, whichever brand it is.
- [ ] Is the car a former fleet, rental or auction unit? Auction announcements matter more.
- [ ] Do you care about oil changes and repairs? Service records matter more.
- [ ] Shortlisting several cars? Use a multi-report option instead of single reports.
- [ ] Want buyback cover? Read Chapter 8: the two programs differ on age limits and timing.
- [ ] Budget tight? Preview free, then a $14.99 report: a 3-pack costs less than one Carfax.

CHAPTER 1

AUTOCHECK VS CARFAX AT A GLANCE

Both reports answer the same question (what has happened to this car?) from overlapping records. The differences are in emphasis: Experian built AutoCheck around a score and auction data; Carfax built its report on more than 151,000 data sources and is best known for service records.

The comparison in one table

	Experian AutoCheck	Carfax
Company	Part of Experian, the information-services group	Carfax, Inc., founded 1984 in Virginia; part of Mobility Global
Known for	The patented AutoCheck Score and wholesale auction announcements	Service and maintenance records; free reports on dealer listings
Summary figure	AutoCheck Score, 1–100, shown with a range for similar cars	History-Based Value, a dollar estimate for the car
Search by	VIN or U.S. license plate and state	VIN or license plate and state
Vehicles covered	Vehicles made for the U.S. and Canadian markets	Cars, SUVs and light trucks from model year 1981
Buyback program	Buyback Protection: register within 90 days of purchase	Buyback Guarantee: report dated within 30 days before purchase
Free route	Free score; free reports at CarMax, on many eBay Motors listings and from Indiana's state program	Free on Carfax car listings and many dealer sites; your own car via Car Care
Single report price	See autocheck.com (we don't quote it)	Widely quoted at $44.99

Sources: autocheck.com; carfax.com; carmax.com; ebay.com help; Indiana Secretary of State VHR service. Checked November 2026.

The short verdict

AutoCheck tends to fit…

- Cars that came through wholesale auctions: ex-fleet, ex-lease, trade-ins
- Shoppers comparing many similar cars by one number
- Older cars: its buyback covers model year 1981 onward

Carfax tends to fit…

- Buyers who want the maintenance trail: oil changes, repairs, inspections
- Dealer purchases where the report is already free
- Owners checking their own car through Carfax Car Care

Neither report is the whole truth

Carfax says its report is based only on information supplied to it; AutoCheck says not all records reach it and it may miss accidents. A clean report is a starting point, never a substitute for a test drive and an inspection.

CHAPTER 2

WHO MAKES EACH REPORT: EXPERIAN AUTOCHECK & CARFAX

An **Experian AutoCheck** report and a Carfax report come from two very different companies. Knowing who is behind each one explains a lot about what ends up on the page.

EXPERIAN AUTOCHECK

AutoCheck: a product of Experian

AutoCheck is Experian's vehicle history brand. AutoCheck's own site calls Experian a leading expert in credit and automotive data, and AutoCheck borrows the credit-file model: collect records from many reporting sources, match them to an identifier (here the VIN instead of a person), and summarize risk in a score. Buyback claims go to Experian Automotive in Schaumburg, Illinois, and the program is governed by Illinois law. AutoCheck sells reports to consumers at autocheck.com and to businesses through separate "AutoCheck Commercial Services" such as AutoCheckmembers.com. Experian markets AutoCheck to auctions, dealerships, insurers, lenders, credit unions and manufacturer certified pre-owned (CPO) programs.

CARFAX, INC.

Carfax: a vehicle history specialist since 1984

Carfax was founded in 1984 in Virginia and calls itself the expert in vehicle history since that year; its Buyback Guarantee terms are governed by Virginia law. Its website describes it as part of Mobility Global. Besides the flagship CARFAX Report, it runs CARFAX Car Listings (where every listing comes with a free report), the free CARFAX Car Care app, which tracks service and recalls for your own car, and the CARFAX History-Based Value. Carfax says thousands of dealers subscribe to its dealer service, CarfaxforDealers.com, so they can hand customers free reports.

Why ownership matters to you

Both earn mainly from businesses

Dealers, auctions, lenders and insurers buy reports in bulk. That's why so many reports are "free" to shoppers: the dealer or marketplace already paid. When a listing offers one brand of report, it usually reflects the seller's subscription, not a verdict on which report is better.

Commission links are common

AutoCheck runs an affiliate program that pays websites a commission on every AutoCheck report they sell, and joining is free. Treat any "which is better" article that ends in a buy button with healthy skepticism, including ours: check the facts against the companies' own pages, as this guide does.

Neither sells you an NMVTIS report

The National Motor Vehicle Title Information System is run by the U.S. Department of Justice. The DOJ's consumer site says consumers cannot receive NMVTIS reports from Carfax or Experian, which provide NMVTIS data to dealers only. Consumers buy NMVTIS reports from the approved providers listed at vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov, such as VinAudit, ClearVin and Bumper.

Neither shows owners' names

AutoCheck's FAQ says it does not provide previous owners' names. Under the Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994 (18 U.S.C. § 2721 et seq.), DMV personal information is released only for permitted uses.

CHAPTER 3

HOW EACH COMPANY GATHERS ITS DATA

A vehicle history report is only as good as the records behind it. Here is what each company says, on its own website, about where its data comes from.

Source type	AutoCheck (per autocheck.com)	Carfax (per carfax.com)
State DMVs	Title and registration data from all 50 states and D.C.: brands, odometer brands, owners, liens, transfers	U.S. federal and state agencies; title information including salvage and junk titles
Canada	Canadian motor vehicle departments	Canadian provincial motor vehicle agencies
Auctions	Wholesale auto auctions and salvage auctions (announcements such as frame damage, low odometer, salvage)	Data from many auto auctions
Insurers	Total losses and the reason for the loss; stolen vehicles	Not named in its source summary; reports can show total-loss history
Police & fire	Law enforcement: theft, recovery and accident reports, police-reported in all 50 states and D.C.	Fire and police departments
Repair & service	Collision repair shops; service and maintenance facilities	Service records appear on reports (oil changes, tire rotations, brake work)
Manufacturers	Open recalls, CPO status, courtesy buybacks	Open recalls appear on reports
Fleet & rental	Rental and fleet companies: use, total loss, maintenance	Fleet management and rental agencies
Inspections	Emissions and safety inspection stations	State emissions inspection results

The numbers each company publishes

Carfax

- **More than 151,000** data sources, domestic and international
- A database of **over 40 billion** records
- Reports for cars, SUVs and light trucks from model year **1981**

AutoCheck

- "**Hundreds**" of data sources for consumer reports (FAQ)
- Business data from **95%** of U.S. auction houses
- "**Tens of thousands**" of distinct accident sources

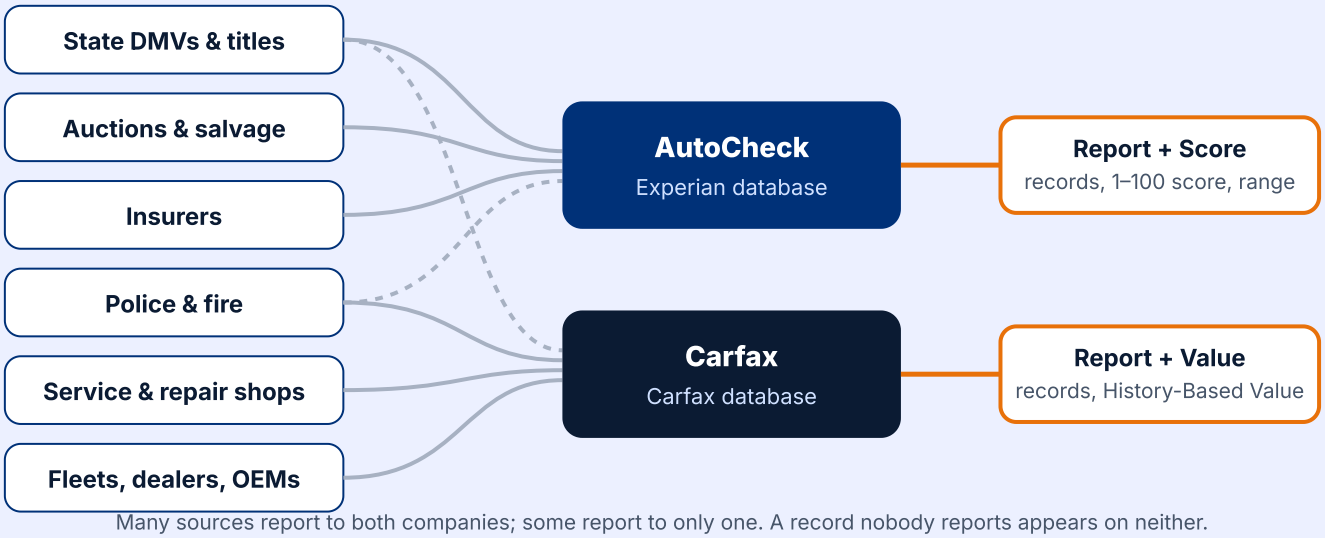
These are each company's own claims. Neither explains exactly what it counts as one "source", so don't compare the raw numbers as if they measured the same thing.

What the source lists really tell you

The lists overlap far more than the marketing suggests: both pull state title data, auctions, police reports, fleets and inspections. AutoCheck also names dealers, warranty and import/export companies. The differences are of degree: AutoCheck leans on **wholesale auction announcements**; **service records** are Carfax's recognized strength. A cash repair or a privately settled crash can be invisible to both.

FROM A RECORD TO YOUR REPORT

Every line on a vehicle history report started as a record somewhere else: a title transaction, an auction run sheet, a police crash report, a repair order. This is how those records travel.



Many sources report to both companies; some report to only one. A record nobody reports appears on neither.

Why the same car can look different on each report

- **Exclusive feeds.** Each company has sources the other lacks. AutoCheck stresses its auction announcements; Carfax its shop network.
- **Timing.** AutoCheck notes that claims and title updates take time to appear on a vehicle's history. A report run today and one run next month can differ.
- **Matching.** A record with a mistyped VIN may attach to the wrong car, or to none.
- **Labels.** One company may call an event “damage reported” while the other calls it an accident with a severity.
- **Data source rules.** AutoCheck marks state title brands as coming from “Motor Vehicle Department” and commercial records as “Auto Insurance Source” or “Auto Auction”. That distinction decides its buyback (Chapter 8).
- **Scope.** AutoCheck only reports on vehicles made for the U.S. and Canadian markets.

Where NMVTIS fits

NMVTIS is the federal title database run by the Department of Justice. An NMVTIS report shows the current title state and brand, brand history, the last odometer reading at titling, and junk, salvage and total-loss records reported by insurers, junk yards and salvage yards. It is the backbone for title checks, but it has no service or accident records, which is why every commercial report layers other data on top. CarCheckerVIN's report includes NMVTIS title records; see **carcheckervin.com/nmvtis-vin-check**.

Privacy: AutoCheck says all data it acquires meets the Driver's Privacy Protection Act and/or other industry guidelines. You'll see cities, states and dates, never past owners' names or addresses.

CHAPTER 4

THE AUTOCHECK SCORE EXPLAINED

The **AutoCheck score** is the feature Experian leads with. It squeezes a long list of history records into one number from 1 to 100, so you can compare used cars quickly. Read correctly, it's useful. Read alone, it misleads.

What the AutoCheck Score is

Experian describes the score as a rating that summarizes the longer list of report data, and says only AutoCheck reports include it. It is patented: U.S. Patent No. 8,005,759, "System and method for providing a score for a used vehicle". According to AutoCheck's FAQ, the score helps predict the likelihood that the car will still be on the road in five years, and it compares vehicles of similar class and age on a scale of 1 to 100.

The factors behind it

Factor	How Experian says it works
Age	In general, the older the car, the lower the score
Vehicle class	A compact car and a pickup have different breakdown histories, so each is scored against its own class
Mileage	More miles than similar vehicles usually means a lower score
Number of owners	More owners than typical for the car's age can lower the score
Use & events	Taxi use, accidents, repossession and theft history all count

Records that pull it down

AutoCheck lists these as factors that can hurt a score:

- Accidents and frame damage
- Water damage
- Title brands such as salvage or rebuilt
- Odometer problems, such as a rollback or a broken odometer
- A lemon brand
- Theft or repossession
- Police or taxi use
- High mileage

FREE AUTOCHECK SCORE

AutoCheck shows the score itself free: enter a VIN or U.S. plate at autocheck.com's free-score page and it returns the number without the full report. That's a legitimate, no-cost **AutoCheck VIN check**, though it tells you *that* something lowered the score, not *what*. For a free look at the actual records, run the car at **carcheckervin.com/free-vin-check**.

Does Carfax have a score?

Carfax's summary figure is different in kind. Its **History-Based Value** is a dollar estimate that Carfax says reflects the car's mileage, features, history and completed service. Where the AutoCheck score ranks a car against similar cars, the History-Based Value prices it. Both are useful for negotiation; neither replaces reading the records underneath.

READING AN AUTOCHECK SCORE THE RIGHT WAY

The single most common mistake is comparing two raw scores. Experian itself warns that the score shows only half the story unless you read it next to the **Score Range** for comparable vehicles.

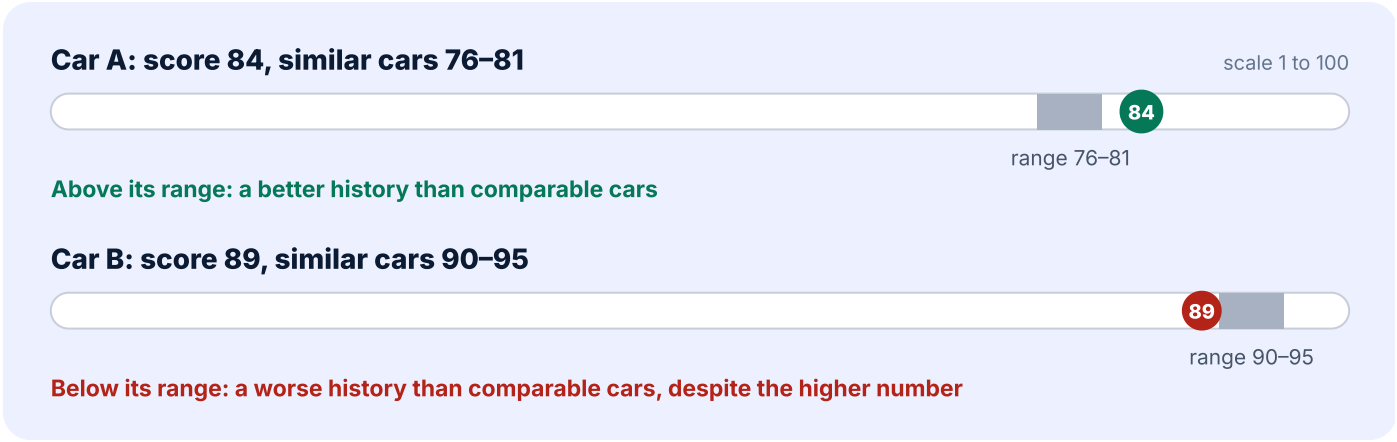


Illustration of the example on autocheck.com's AutoCheck Score page: an older sedan scoring 84 against a 76–81 range beats a newer sedan scoring 89 against a 90–95 range.

What AutoCheck's own sample report shows

AutoCheck's public sample report (a 2015 compact luxury sedan) is a good lesson in reading the score. The car scores **48** while similar vehicles usually range between **76 and 87**. The report's "Vehicle Outlook" puts the car's likelihood of being on the road in five years at **47%**, and lists the decreasing factors: a severe title or other major problem, a salvage brand and an insurance loss. Below the score, the detailed history shows why: a police-reported front-impact crash, an insurer total loss, a junk record and later rebuilt and "not actual miles" title brands.

Use the score to…

1. **Screen a list.** Check whether each car sits inside, above or below its own range.
2. **Find the reason.** A car below its range has records that pulled it down; read them.
3. **Compare like with like.** Ranges depend on age and class, so compare cars of the same kind.

What the score can't tell you

- Anything nobody reported: cash repairs, private settlements
- The car's condition today: worn brakes, leaks, rust
- Whether a repair was done well
- Why a car scores high: a high score can still hide a single serious record

Score range first, number second

A car scoring 70 inside a 65–72 range is behaving normally for its age and class. A car scoring 85 below a 88–93 range has something in its file. When you get an **AutoCheck report** from a dealer, read the range before you react to the number, then scroll straight to the detailed history.

CHAPTER 5

AUCTION DATA: AUTOCHECK'S HOME GROUND

Many used cars pass through wholesale auctions between owners: lease returns, rental fleets, trade-ins, repossessions. What an auction announces about a car at the moment of sale is some of the most candid history there is, and it's where AutoCheck puts its emphasis.

What AutoCheck says about its auction data

On its consumer price page, AutoCheck says its business packages draw data from **95% of all U.S. auction houses**, with most providing exclusive structural damage announcements. Its AutoCheck-vs-Carfax page claims exclusive auction-announced data from the two largest U.S. auctions. Its sample report gives auctions their own line, "Auction Brand / Issues", and its odometer section runs a separate "Auction Odometer Check". Carfax, for its part, lists data from many auto auctions among its sources.

Auction announcements, decoded

Announcement (AutoCheck glossary)	What the auction reported
Structural / frame / unibody damage	Frame damage that can weaken the structure of the vehicle
Flood damage	The vehicle was in a flood or may have water damage
Major damage	The auction rated the damage as major
Odometer rollback	Possible tampering with the odometer
Not actual miles / true mileage unknown	The reading doesn't reflect, or can't confirm, real mileage
Manufacturer buyback / lemon	The maker repurchased the car or it may have ongoing problems
Grey market	Built for another country; may not meet U.S. safety or emissions standards
Repossessed	The lender repossessed the vehicle
Fleet / lease	The car was a fleet or leased vehicle

Dealer auctions vs salvage auctions

Wholesale dealer auctions move ordinary used cars between dealers. Salvage auctions sell cars that insurers have written off. AutoCheck draws on both, and uses salvage-auction records to flag cars that were salvaged but never titled as salvage by a DMV, one of the more valuable catches a report can make.

An auction sale isn't a red flag

AutoCheck's own glossary makes the point: a car that has been through one or more auctions is simply being moved from one market to another, and that alone says nothing about its condition. What matters is what the auction *announced*, and whether it was a salvage sale.

AUCTION RECORDS WITH PHOTOS

CarCheckerVIN's report includes auction sales with photos, so you can see how a car looked when it was sold, often before repairs. Check a VIN's auction history at **carcheckervin.com/auction-history**.

CHAPTER 6

SERVICE RECORDS: WHERE THE CARFAX REPORT SHINES

If auction data is AutoCheck's strength, service history is Carfax's. A well-kept maintenance trail is one of the best signs of a car that was cared for, and service records are what a **Carfax report** is best known for.

What each report shows about maintenance

	Carfax	AutoCheck
Service entries	Its report page lists oil changes, tire rotations, brake rotor and transmission replacements, and safety inspections among the things every report checks for	Service, repair and maintenance work, with dates and locations, from service and maintenance facilities
Maintenance guidance	The free Car Care app gives service reminders for your own car	Its sample report shows the maker's recommended maintenance schedule for the car's mileage
Summary line	Service records feed its History-Based Value	A “Service / Repair” line in the at-a-glance summary

Why Carfax is known for service history

Service records are the part of the report Carfax is best known for, and its free Car Care app encourages owners to keep their service history in one place, which feeds the same database. AutoCheck's report also carries service and repair entries from the facilities that report to Experian, and CarCheckerVIN's report lists service records where they are on file. For any one car, the only way to know which report has more is to see both.

What service records prove

- The car was maintained at least as often as the entries show
- The mileage was climbing normally at those dates
- Which shops know the car, useful for asking questions

What they don’t prove

- That nothing else was done: many shops report to no one
- That a repair fixed the problem
- That a gap means neglect: DIY oil changes leave no record

Fill the gaps yourself

1. **Ask the seller for receipts.** A folder of invoices beats any database. Match the VIN and mileage on each one.
2. **Check open recalls.** Look up the VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls; recall repairs are free at franchised dealers.
3. **Get an inspection.** Carfax's own help center puts a typical pre-purchase inspection at $100–$150, and recommends one with any report.

CHAPTER 7

TITLES, ODOMETER, DAMAGE & MORE

Beyond the score and the service log, the two reports check the same big risks: branded titles, mileage fraud, damage, use and recalls. Here's how each one presents them.

Risk	AutoCheck report	Carfax report
Title brands	"State Title Brand" line: salvage, junk, rebuilt, flood, fire, hail, lemon, odometer brands	Title information including salvage or junked titles; flood or lemon titles
Odometer	Three checks: state title odometer brands, auction odometer announcements, and a calculation check of the reading sequence	Odometer readings, last reported mileage and odometer rollback
Accidents & damage	"Accident / Damage" line; events rated minor, moderate or severe; airbag deployment, structural damage	Accident history, damage severity (severe/minor), point of impact, airbag deployment, structural damage
Total loss	"Insurance Loss / Transfer" line	Total-loss accident history
Use	Rental, taxi, fleet, lease, police, government use	Personal, rental, leased, commercial, taxi, police
Owners	Owner count and where each owner registered the car	1, 2 or 3+ owners, states owned in, length of ownership
Recalls	"Open Recall Check" with campaign details	Open recalls
Liens & theft	Loans and liens; records of theft	Not in its published checklist
CPO	"Certified Pre-Owned" line from manufacturers	Not in its published checklist

Lines quoted from AutoCheck's public sample report and FAQ, and from the "Every CARFAX Vehicle History Report checks for" list on carfax.com.

Odometer fraud is not rare

NHTSA estimates that more than 450,000 vehicles are sold each year with false odometer readings. Federal odometer law (49 U.S.C. Chapter 327) gives a buyer who proves intent to defraud a civil claim for three times actual damages or $10,000, whichever is greater, plus attorney's fees. Odometer disclosure on transfer is exempt for vehicles 20 years old or older, or model year 2010 or older, so older cars have weaker paper trails. That's where mileage readings from auctions, inspections and service visits on either report become critical.

Title washing

A car branded salvage in one state can be retitled in another where the brand doesn't carry over. Both companies receive state title data, and AutoCheck adds salvage-auction records that can reveal a salvage car with a clean title. The federal NMVTIS database exists for exactly this problem; CarCheckerVIN's report includes NMVTIS title records alongside state title brands, insurance total-loss records and auction sales.

TITLE + MILEAGE CHECK

Preview title brands, odometer readings and lien records free at **carcheckervin.com/free-vin-check**; the $14.99 report shows every record.

CHAPTER 7 CONT.

FLOOD, THEFT & LEMON CHECKS COMPARED

Three risks deserve a closer look, because each one has a free check alongside the paid reports, and because the two big reports handle them differently.

Risk	AutoCheck	Carfax	Free tool & CarCheckerVIN
Flood	Flood brands, auction and salvage-auction flood records; a separate Flood Risk Check	Flood damage history; flood title	NICB: insurer flood total losses. CarCheckerVIN: flood brands, total-loss records
Theft	Records of theft; law-enforcement stolen-vehicle and recovery records	Not in its published checklist	NICB VINCheck: stolen-not-recovered. CarCheckerVIN: not included
Lemon	Lemon title brand; auction-announced manufacturer buyback	Lemon title	CarCheckerVIN: lemon buyback title brand
Salvage	State brands, plus salvage-auction records that can expose an unbranded salvage car	Salvage or junked title; total-loss history	NMVTIS junk, salvage and total-loss records (in CarCheckerVIN's report)

AutoCheck's Flood Risk Check: two questions

1. Registered in a FEMA disaster area?

It compares the car's registration over the past 12 months with FEMA major disaster regions in that period. AutoCheck says a "Yes" is location information only, not confirmation of flood damage.

2. Records that suggest flood damage?

It searches Experian's flood brands, auction flood announcements and salvage flood designations. A "Yes" means documented water damage, such as a title issued to an insurer after a flood claim.

A clean flood check is not a dry car

AutoCheck says no records doesn't prove the car was never flooded: not every flood is reported, and claims take time to appear. Look for damp or new carpet, a musty smell, silt under the seats or in the spare-tire well and rust under the dash, and get an inspection.

Theft: use the free check

NICB's VINCheck (nicb.org/vincheck) is free, allows 5 searches per 24 hours, and draws on insurers writing 92.49% of U.S. earned premium. It shows stolen-not-recovered and insurer total-loss records. CarCheckerVIN's report has no theft records, so run VINCheck too.

Lemons: rules vary by state

As AutoCheck's glossary notes, lemon laws vary by state; in some states the maker must buy back or exchange the car. A buyback can show as a lemon title brand, an auction announcement, or both. Both buyback programs cover the lemon brand.

FREE CHECKS

Check flood and lemon title brands with CarCheckerVIN's free tools at **carcheckervin.com/flood-check** and **carcheckervin.com/lemon-check**.

CHAPTER 8

CARFAX BUYBACK GUARANTEE VS AUTOCHECK BUYBACK PROTECTION

Both companies promise to buy the car back if their report missed a title brand. Both programs are narrower than shoppers assume, and they differ in ways that matter: timing, vehicle age and what they'll pay.

	Carfax Buyback Guarantee	AutoCheck Buyback Protection
Pays when	The report says there is no branded title, but one exists	The report shows no branded title, but one exists
Brands covered	Junk, salvage, dismantled, rebuilt, flood, fire, hail, lemon buyback, exceeds mechanical limits, not actual mileage, or similar	The same list: junk or salvage, dismantled or rebuilt, flood, fire, hail, lemon, odometer brands, or similar
Excluded	Brand added without reissuing the title; salvage due to theft; brand issued in error	Brand stamped without reissuing; theft salvage; damage disclosures; brands issued in error; accidents and other negative data
Accidents?	Not covered: title brands only	Not covered: state title brands only
Report timing	Dated before purchase, but no more than 30 days before	Run before purchase (and on or after June 27, 2005)
Brand age	Issued at least 60 days before the report	Issued at least 60 days before the report
Registration	No registration step in the terms	Register within 90 days of purchase
Deadline	Claim within 1 year after the report date	Expires at resale or 1 year after the first report, whichever is first
Vehicles	Car or light truck, model year no more than 20 years before the report	Passenger vehicle or light truck, model year 1981 or later
Payment	Lesser of the purchase price (excluding fees, taxes, warranties, accessories) and 110% of Carfax's History-Based Value	Purchase price, capped at 10% over NADA retail value, plus up to $500 for warranties and installed accessories
Dealer reports	Terms define the report by its date, not by who bought it	Dealer must buy through an AutoCheck Commercial Service; the buyer must register
Law	Virginia	Illinois

Carfax Buyback Guarantee Terms and Conditions (carfax.com); AutoCheck Buyback Protection Terms and Conditions and Vehicle Buyback Protection page (autocheck.com). Checked November 2026; terms can change.

The three differences that decide most cases

Older cars

Carfax's stops at 20 model years old at the report date; AutoCheck's covers 1981 onward.

Timing

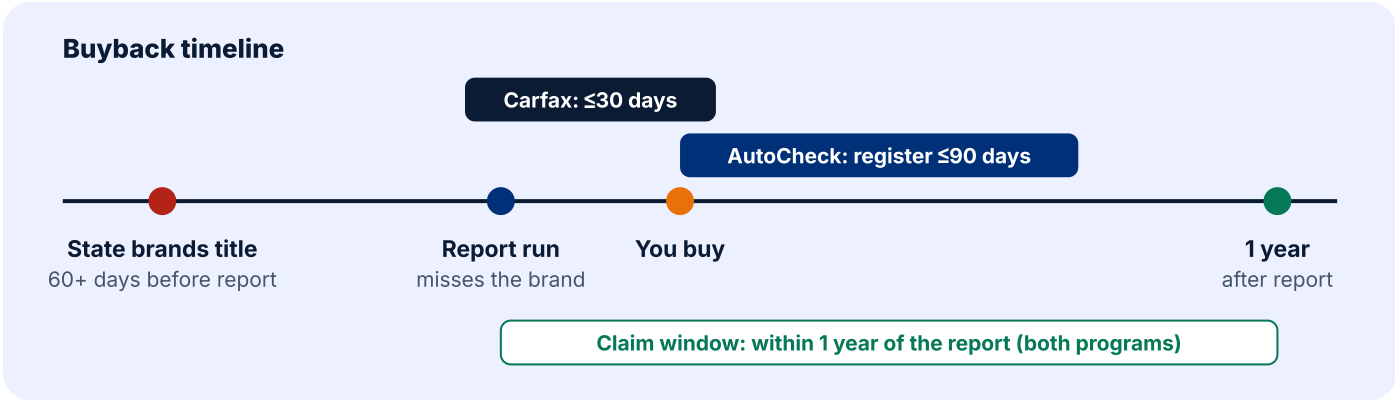
Carfax: report dated within 30 days before you buy. AutoCheck: register within 90 days after.

Payout

Both cap near 110% of a guide value; only AutoCheck adds up to $500 for accessories.

MAKING A BUYBACK CLAIM, STEP BY STEP

A buyback claim only works if the dates line up. This timeline shows the windows each program sets, measured from the report and the purchase.



Carfax claim checklist

- [ ] You still own the car when you file
- [ ] CARFAX Buyback Guarantee claim form
- [ ] The current title issued to you
- [ ] The Carfax report (dated within 30 days before purchase)
- [ ] Your bill of sale
- [ ] Front and back of the branded title

Accepting a payment releases Carfax from other claims about that report, and you must repay it if information you gave was false.

AutoCheck claim checklist

- [ ] Registered within 90 days of purchase (online, signed in)
- [ ] You still own the car; claim form completed and mailed
- [ ] A complete copy of the AutoCheck report
- [ ] Original bill of sale and current ownership document
- [ ] Certified copy, front and back, of the branded title
- [ ] Title assigned to Experian, which becomes the car's owner

AutoCheck says it acknowledges a claim by email within 2 business days, and the average review takes 4–6 weeks.

A worked example (hypothetical)

You pay $18,000; the guide value is $15,000; a missed flood brand surfaces eight months later. Carfax pays the lesser of $18,000 and 110% of its History-Based Value: **$16,500**. AutoCheck caps the price at 10% over NADA retail, also **$16,500**, plus up to $500 for accessories. Either way you absorb part of the overpayment.

What neither program covers

Accidents, insurance losses that never became a title brand, odometer rollbacks reported by auctions or insurers, and anything that wasn't on a state title when the report was run. AutoCheck says plainly that records from commercial data sources, such as accidents, insurance losses or odometer rollbacks, are not covered.

CHAPTER 9

AUTOCHECK FREE REPORT: THE ROUTES THAT ARE REAL

Searching for an **AutoCheck free report** turns up plenty of promises. A genuine free AutoCheck report always exists because someone else paid for it: a dealer, a marketplace or a state. Here is every route we could verify.



Indiana residents

The Indiana Secretary of State's Vehicle History Report service gives residents up to five free AutoCheck reports a year, behind an Access Indiana sign-in.



CarMax inventory

CarMax says every vehicle it sells comes with a free AutoCheck vehicle history report you can read and print before buying.



eBay Motors listings

eBay says many sellers include an AutoCheck report in the listing's "Vehicle History Report" tab; if not, you can buy one.



Dealer-provided

AutoCheck's buyback page covers reports you receive from your dealer. Many dealers subscribe; ask for the report before you test-drive.



Some credit unions

Experian markets AutoCheck to credit unions as a free report they can offer members who finance a car with them. Ask your lender.



The free AutoCheck Score

Anyone can get the score free on autocheck.com by VIN or plate. It's the number, not the records behind it.

How to spot a fake "free AutoCheck"

- **No one else paid.** If a site offers a free full AutoCheck report for any VIN, with no dealer, state or marketplace behind it, be skeptical.
- **Government lookalikes.** Real government vehicle tools live on .gov addresses such as Indiana's app.vhr.sos.in.gov or the DOJ's vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov.
- **Card for "free".** A site that asks for card details to unlock a "free" report is selling something; read the terms first.
- **Affiliate pages.** AutoCheck pays affiliates a commission on sales, so some "free" pages simply hand you to the paid checkout.

FREE PREVIEW

Not in Indiana and not buying from CarMax? A free history preview at **carcheckervin.com/free-vin-check** shows how many damage, auction and recall records are on file for the VIN, no card needed. More free AutoCheck routes: **carcheckervin.com/free-autocheck-report**.

CHAPTER 10

THE CARFAX REPORT: PRICE, CONTENTS & FREE CARFAX

This is the Carfax side of the AutoCheck vs Carfax decision: what a **Carfax report** contains, what the **Carfax price** is, and how to read one without paying for it.

Carfax price

A single Carfax report is **widely quoted at $44.99**. Carfax's site wouldn't let us verify it, so check at checkout. Carfax also sells reports by VIN or by license plate and state. For comparison, CarCheckerVIN's full report is $14.99, and its 3-pack ($35.99) costs less than one Carfax; a 5-pack ($54.99) costs less than two.

What's in a Carfax report

Carfax's About page says a report may include:

- Accident and damage indicators, such as airbag deployments, with point of impact and a severity scale
- How many owners the car has had
- Title information, including salvage or junked titles
- Flood damage and total-loss history
- Odometer readings and emissions inspection results
- Service records
- Commercial use, such as taxi or rental

Free Carfax: five real routes

1. **Carfax car listings.** Carfax says every listing on its car-shopping site comes with a free Carfax report.
2. **Dealer websites.** Carfax's help center says a free report is often linked from dealer inventory pages; if it isn't, ask the dealer.
3. **Ask a private seller.** Sellers sometimes buy one to help the sale. Make sure the VIN on it matches the car.
4. **Your own car.** A free Carfax Car Care account gives immediate access to the report for a car you own, plus recall alerts.
5. **AAA membership.** AAA Premier members get one free Carfax a year by phone; Classic and Plus members get a discount, which varies by club.

Routes 1–4: carfax.com About page and Carfax Help Center. Route 5: AAA member benefits.

Carfax's own caveat

Carfax says its report is based only on information supplied to Carfax, and that other problems might not have been reported to it. It recommends pairing the report with an inspection and a test drive, advice that applies to every report.

When paying full price for a Carfax makes sense

Pay for a Carfax when the car has passed your cheaper checks, you're close to buying, and its **service history** would change your decision or your offer. If a dealer provides one free, take it. See **how to get a free Carfax report** and **how much a Carfax report costs**.

CARFAX VS $14.99

Run the free preview at **carcheckervin.com/free-vin-check** first. If damage or auction records show up, read the $14.99 report before paying for a Carfax: you may need a different car.

CHAPTER 11

CARFAX VS AUTOCHECK: WHICH IS BETTER FOR YOU?

There is no single winner in **Carfax vs AutoCheck, which is better**. The right report depends on the car, the seller and what you're worried about. Find your situation below.

Your situation	Lean toward	Why
Buying at a dealer that already provides a report	The free one	Read whatever is free first; buy a second report only to fill a gap
Ex-rental, ex-fleet or off-lease car	AutoCheck	Fleet and lease cars often pass through wholesale auctions, where announcements are recorded
You want the maintenance trail	Carfax	Service records are its recognized strength
Comparing many similar cars	AutoCheck	The score and range rank similar cars at a glance; its multi-report plans help
Car more than 20 model years old	AutoCheck	Carfax's buyback stops at 20 model years; AutoCheck's covers 1981 onward
Buying from CarMax	AutoCheck	Every CarMax vehicle comes with a free AutoCheck report
You live in Indiana	AutoCheck	The state gives residents up to five free AutoCheck reports a year
Checking a car you already own	Carfax	Carfax Car Care shows your own car's report free
Imported car built for another market	Not AutoCheck	AutoCheck only reports on vehicles made for the U.S. and Canadian markets
Private sale on a tight budget	CarCheckerVIN	Title brands, NMVTIS title records, odometer, liens and auctions for $14.99

Four myths, corrected

"They use the same data."
Partly. Both use state title data, but each has exclusive feeds, so a damage event can appear on one report only.

"A higher score is always better."
Only within a class and age. A newer car can score higher than an older one and still sit below its own range (page 9).

"The buyback covers accidents."
Neither program does. Both pay only for state title brands their report missed, under strict date rules.

"A clean report means a clean car."
Both companies say their reports only reflect what was reported to them. Unreported damage leaves no record anywhere.

OUR TAKE

For most private buyers the smartest order is: free checks first, a low-cost report on the shortlist, an inspection on the winner, and a Carfax or AutoCheck only when one adds something the others can't. Compare all three on page 20, or start at **carcheckervin.com/autocheck-vs-carfax**.

CHAPTER 12

AUTOCHECK FOR DEALERS & CARFAX FOR DEALERS

Dealers are the real customers of both companies. If you buy at auction, take trade-ins or run a lot, here's how each dealer program works and what to weigh.

AUTOCHECK FOR DEALERS

Experian's commercial service

Dealers buy **AutoCheck for dealers** through an AutoCheck Commercial Service such as AutoCheckmembers.com; AutoCheck's terms bar dealers from the consumer site. Experian pitches AutoCheck to auto auctions and says it integrates with hundreds of applications. Member samples include a **Full Report** and a **Summary Report**, and business packages carry data from 95% of U.S. auction houses, AutoCheck says.

CARFAX FOR DEALERS

CarfaxforDealers.com

Carfax says thousands of dealers subscribe to CarfaxforDealers.com so they can give customers free Carfax reports, and every listing on Carfax's own car-shopping site comes with one. Compare options at **carcheckervin.com/carfax-for-dealers**.

The buyback detail dealers miss

AutoCheck Buyback Protection passes to a dealer's buyer only if the dealer ran the report through a Commercial Service, gave the buyer a copy, and the buyer registers within 90 days. Carfax's guarantee needs a report dated no more than 30 days before the sale, so a stale printout can leave a buyer outside it.

What dealers should compare

- [ ] **Auction coverage** for the lanes you buy from
- [ ] **Consumer recognition** of the report on your listings
- [ ] **Integration** with your inventory and listing tools
- [ ] **Buyback paperwork** your sales staff must hand over
- [ ] **Cost per report** at your real monthly volume
- [ ] **Bulk or API access** for appraising trade-ins quickly
- [ ] **White-label options** if you want your own branding
- [ ] **Contract terms**: commitment length and seat counts

FOR DEALERS

Wholesale reports from CarCheckerVIN

CarCheckerVIN offers dealers wholesale report pricing, bulk API access and white-label reports, with title brands, NMVTIS title records, odometer readings, lien records and auction sales with photos. Details at **carcheckervin.com/dealers**; AutoCheck's dealer program is compared at **carcheckervin.com/autocheck-for-dealers**.

CHAPTER 13

VEHICLE HISTORY REPORT COMPARISON: AUTOCHECK VS CARFAX VS CARCHECKERVIN

A full **vehicle history report comparison**, row by row. Where a report doesn't offer something, we say so, including for our own.

	AutoCheck	Carfax	CarCheckerVIN
Single report	Priced on autocheck.com	Widely quoted at $44.99	$14.99
Multiple reports	5 reports for 21 days; 25-report package with dashboard	Check carfax.com	3 for $35.99, 5 for $54.99, 10 for $89.99
Subscription	One-time fee, no auto-renewal	Check carfax.com	None
Free option	Free AutoCheck Score	Free on Carfax listings and many dealer sites	Free VIN check and history preview
Search by	VIN or U.S. plate	VIN or plate	VIN, U.S. plate or a list of VINs
Summary figure	AutoCheck Score 1–100 with range	History-Based Value	Market value estimate
Title brands	✓	✓	✓ plus NMVTIS title records
Odometer	✓ three checks	✓	✓ readings
Owner count	✓	✓	✓
Total loss	✓	✓	✓ insurance total-loss records
Auction records	✓ announcements	✓ from many auctions	✓ sales with photos
Accident reports	✓ police-reported, 50 states + D.C.	✓ severity, point of impact	Not included; shows insurance total-loss records
Service records	✓	✓ its main strength	✓
Liens	✓ loans and liens	Not in its published checklist	✓ lien history and impounds
Open recalls	✓	✓	✓
Buyback	Buyback Protection	Buyback Guarantee	None
NMVTIS report to consumers	No: dealers only, per DOJ	No: dealers only, per DOJ	Includes NMVTIS title records

AutoCheck: autocheck.com price, FAQ, sample report and score pages. Carfax: carfax.com About and vehicle-history-reports pages; price widely quoted. CarCheckerVIN: carcheckervin.com/pricing. DOJ: vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov. Checked November 2026.

Where CarCheckerVIN fits

Brands, mileage, total losses, liens and auction damage at a third of Carfax's price, with a free preview first. For theft, add the free NICB VINCheck; for accident detail, a Carfax or AutoCheck.

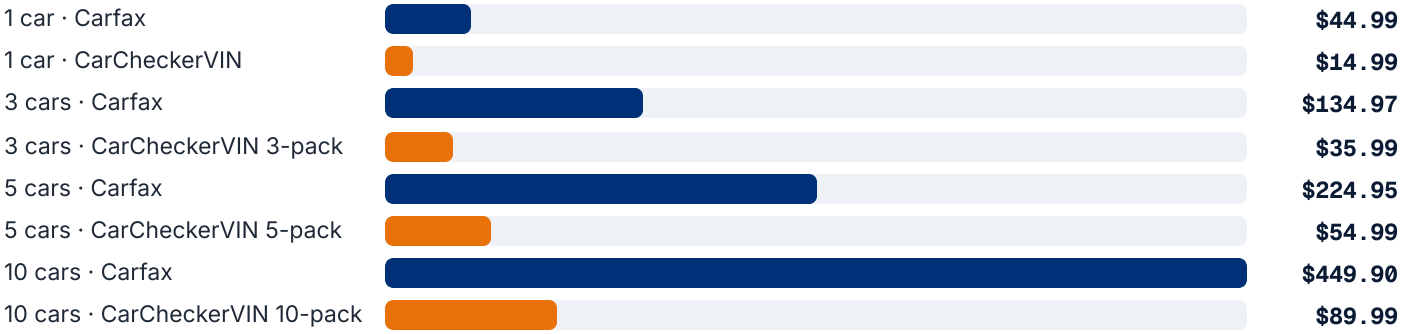
Where the big two fit

Carfax for service history; AutoCheck for its score, auction announcements and a buyback that covers older cars. Take either when a seller provides it free.

WHAT CHECKING SEVERAL CARS REALLY COSTS

One report looks cheap next to the price of a car. But many buyers check more than one car, and at the **Carfax price** the bill grows fast. Here is the math with published prices.

Cost to check a shortlist



Carfax figures multiply its widely quoted single-report price ($44.99); if Carfax offers you a multi-report package, compare its per-report price instead. CarCheckerVIN prices from carcheckervin.com/pricing, November 2026.

Cars checked	Carfax at $44.99 each	CarCheckerVIN	Difference	Per report
1	$44.99	$14.99	$30.00	$14.99
3	$134.97	$35.99	$98.98	$12.00
5	$224.95	$54.99	$169.96	$11.00
10	$449.90	$89.99	$359.91	$9.00

And AutoCheck?

AutoCheck sells a single report, a five-report plan that runs for 21 days, and a 25-report package with its comparison dashboard, all as one-time fees with no automatic renewal. Check autocheck.com for current prices; for a shopper comparing many cars over a few weeks, the multi-report plans are the ones to look at.

A sensible budget

Run free checks on every car (decoder, NICB, NHTSA recalls, the CarCheckerVIN preview), buy a 3-pack for the finalists ($35.99), then pay for one independent inspection on the winner, which Carfax's help center puts at typically $100–$150. That is less than ten Carfax reports, and far more informative.

When a pricier report earns its price

A Carfax or AutoCheck is worth paying for when its strength (service history for Carfax, auction announcements and a buyback that covers older cars for AutoCheck) would change your offer or your decision on a car you're about to buy. It's rarely worth paying full price to screen cars you might never see.

PAY LESS

Preview free at **carcheckervin.com/free-vin-check**, see every pack at **carcheckervin.com/pricing**, and get a free report for referring a friend at **carcheckervin.com/refer**.

CHAPTER 14

AUTOCHECK ALTERNATIVE & THE FREE TOOLS STACK

Looking for an **AutoCheck alternative** or a cheaper Carfax? You can rule out many bad cars with free tools before you spend a dollar, then add one low-cost report.

CARCHECKERVIN.COM · FREE PREVIEW, $14.99 REPORT

CarCheckerVIN

A free VIN check and decoder with a free history preview, then a $14.99 full report: title records and state title brands (salvage, junk, rebuilt, flood, lemon buyback), NMVTIS title records, odometer readings, owner count, insurance total-loss records, lien history and impound information, auction sales with photos, service records, open recalls, factory specs and a market value estimate. Ready in under a minute and print-ready. Start at **carcheckervin.com/free-vin-check**.

FREE · U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NHTSA recall lookup

Look up open safety recalls by VIN or plate at nhtsa.gov/recalls. It won't show recalls more than 15 years old (unless the maker offers more), some small or ultra-luxury makers, or very new recalls not yet loaded. Recall repairs are free at franchised dealers. Also at **carcheckervin.com/recall-check**.

FREE · NATIONAL INSURANCE CRIME BUREAU

NICB VINCheck

Free at nicb.org/vincheck, 5 searches per 24 hours per IP address. It shows stolen-not-recovered and salvage or flood total-loss records from participating insurers, which write 92.49% of U.S. earned premium. NICB says it is not a full history report, but it is the best free theft check available.

PAID · U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SYSTEM

NMVTIS approved providers

The DOJ lists approved NMVTIS data providers at vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov (examples include VinAudit, ClearVin, EpicVin, GoodCar, Bumper and carVertical). An NMVTIS report shows the current title state and brand, brand history, the last odometer reading at titling, and total-loss, junk and salvage records. Remember: per the DOJ, consumers can't get NMVTIS reports from Carfax or Experian.

FREE · DECODER

A VIN decoder

Before any report, decode the VIN to confirm the year, make, model, engine and plant match the ad. A mismatch ends the conversation for free. Try **carcheckervin.com/vin-decoder**.

Use them in this order: decode, NICB and NHTSA, the free preview, then one paid report for the finalists (page 23). More options: **carcheckervin.com/alternatives-to-carfax**.

CHAPTER 15

WHEN AUTOCHECK AND CARFAX DISAGREE

Run both reports on one car and they will rarely match line for line. A disagreement isn't proof that either is wrong. It's a lead worth following before you sign.

Common disagreements and what to do

What you see	Likely reason	What to do
Damage on one report, clean on the other	An exclusive source, such as a police report or an auction announcement	Treat the damage as real until an inspection says otherwise; ask the seller about it directly
Different owner counts	Leases, dealer registrations or out-of-state moves counted differently	Read the dates and states; look for unexplained title transfers
Mileage gap or drop	A typo at one source, or a rollback	Compare every reading across both reports, the title and service receipts
A title brand on one only	Timing, or a brand that didn't carry over to a new state	Check NMVTIS title records and the paper title itself; walk away if unresolved
Service records on Carfax only	Carfax's service-record sources	Normal; it's no sign of trouble
Auction announcement on AutoCheck only	AutoCheck's wholesale auction feeds	Take frame, flood or odometer announcements seriously

The buyer's sequence that saves money

1. **Decode the VIN free** and drop any car whose year, trim or engine doesn't match the ad.
2. **Run the free checks:** the free AutoCheck Score, NICB VINCheck, NHTSA recalls and the CarCheckerVIN history preview.
3. **Read any free report the seller offers**, Carfax or AutoCheck, line by line.
4. **Buy a $14.99 CarCheckerVIN report** on the two or three finalists to see title brands, NMVTIS title records, odometer readings, liens and auction photos.
5. **Inspect the winner** with an independent mechanic, and buy a Carfax or AutoCheck only if service history or auction data would change your offer.
6. **Keep every report**, dated. Both buyback programs require a copy of the report.

> **Walk away if…**
> the seller won't let you see the VIN, the VIN on the car doesn't match the title, any report shows a salvage, flood or lemon brand the seller didn't mention, or mileage readings go backward. No report and no buyback program can undo those after you've paid.

START HERE

Check any VIN free at **carcheckervin.com/free-vin-check** and compare it with what the seller's report says.

REFERENCE

AUTOCHECK & CARFAX GLOSSARY

Auction announcement
A condition a wholesale auction declares at sale, such as frame damage, flood damage or an odometer problem.

AutoCheck
Experian's vehicle history report brand, sold to consumers and through commercial services to businesses.

AutoCheck Commercial Service
A dealer-only AutoCheck channel such as AutoCheckmembers.com; required for dealer buyers to get Buyback Protection.

AutoCheck Score
A patented 1–100 rating summarizing a car's history, read against a range for similar cars.

Branded title
A title marked by a state with a word such as salvage, rebuilt, flood or lemon.

Buyback Guarantee
Carfax's program paying if its report missed a DMV-issued title brand.

Buyback Protection
AutoCheck's program paying if its report missed a state title brand; registration required.

Carfax Car Care
Carfax's free app for owners: service reminders, recall alerts, service history and your car's report.

Certified pre-owned (CPO)
A used car certified under a manufacturer's program; AutoCheck reports a CPO line.

Corrected title
A reissued title; depending on the state, for an owner change, a lien, or a fixed detail such as mileage.

Exceeds mechanical limits
An odometer brand meaning the true mileage is higher than the odometer can show.

Experian
The information-services company that owns AutoCheck.

DPPA
Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994 (18 U.S.C. § 2721 et seq.), which limits release of DMV personal data.

Insurance loss
A claim record from an insurer, such as a total loss, which may or may not become a title brand.

Grey market
A vehicle built for another country that may not meet U.S. safety or emissions standards.

History-Based Value
Carfax's dollar value estimate reflecting mileage, features, history and service.

Lemon / manufacturer buyback
A vehicle repurchased by its maker, often under a state lemon law; can carry a title brand.

NADA retail value
The used-vehicle retail value from J.D. Power NADAguides, used to cap AutoCheck buyback payments.

NICB VINCheck
The National Insurance Crime Bureau's free theft and insurer salvage lookup.

NMVTIS
National Motor Vehicle Title Information System, the DOJ's federal title database.

Not actual miles (NAM)
An odometer brand meaning the reading doesn't reflect the true mileage.

Score Range
The AutoCheck Scores comparable cars of the same age and class usually get.

Structural damage
Damage to the frame or unibody that can weaken the vehicle's structure.

Title washing
Retitling a branded car in another state to remove the brand from its paperwork.

Total loss
An insurer's decision to pay out a vehicle's value instead of repairing it; can lead to a salvage title.

Vehicle history report
A dated timeline of title, mileage, owner, damage, auction and service records for one VIN.

Salvage auction
An auction selling vehicles written off by insurers, many of them damaged.

VIN
Vehicle Identification Number: 17 characters on vehicles from model year 1981, with no I, O or Q.

ANSWERS

AUTOCHECK VS CARFAX FAQ

AutoCheck vs Carfax: which is more accurate?

Neither is complete. Both say their reports reflect only what was reported to them. Carfax is best known for service records; AutoCheck stresses auction announcements.

Is AutoCheck cheaper than Carfax?

AutoCheck sells single and multi-report plans on autocheck.com; check the current price there. Carfax is widely quoted at $44.99. CarCheckerVIN's report is $14.99.

What is a good AutoCheck score?

One inside or above the Score Range shown for similar cars. The raw number means little without that range.

How can I get an AutoCheck report for free?

Buy from CarMax, check eBay Motors listings, ask the dealer, ask your credit union, or, in Indiana, use the state's five free reports a year.

Can I get a free AutoCheck score?

Yes. autocheck.com shows the score free by VIN or plate, without the full report.

Is Experian AutoCheck legit?

Yes. AutoCheck is Experian's own product, used by dealers, auctions and manufacturer CPO programs.

Is there a cheaper alternative to AutoCheck and Carfax?

CarCheckerVIN's full report is $14.99, or $9 each in a 10-pack, with a free preview first.

Can Carfax or AutoCheck show who owned the car?

No. Federal privacy law (the DPPA) keeps owner names off consumer reports.

Is the AutoCheck Flood Risk Check proof of no flood?

No. AutoCheck says a result with no records cannot assure the car was never flooded.

Does Carfax cover accidents in its buyback?

No. The Carfax Buyback Guarantee covers DMV-issued title brands only, and AutoCheck's program likewise excludes accidents.

Why do dealers give Carfax reports free?

Dealers subscribe to CarfaxforDealers.com, which lets them hand customers free reports.

Can I search AutoCheck or Carfax by license plate?

Yes, both accept a U.S. license plate and state. So does carcheckervin.com.

Does AutoCheck work on imported cars?

Only on vehicles made for the U.S. and Canadian markets, per its FAQ.

Is AutoCheck good for dealers?

Many use it for auction buying. Dealers must use an AutoCheck Commercial Service, not the consumer site.

Do I need both reports?

Rarely. Use free checks, one low-cost report, then an inspection; add a second report only to resolve a gap.

How long is AutoCheck Buyback Protection?

Until you sell the car or one year after the first report, whichever comes first, if you registered within 90 days.

Does CarCheckerVIN offer a buyback?

No. It shows title brands, NMVTIS title records and total-loss records up front instead.

Does a Carfax buyback need registration?

Its terms list no registration step, but the report must be dated within 30 days before purchase.

AUTOCHECK VS CARFAX

Check the car, not the brand.

Free VIN check and history preview for any VIN. Full report $14.99: title brands, NMVTIS title records, odometer, liens and auction photos.

carcheckervin.com/autocheck-vs-carfax →

Scan to compare reports

Sources

- Experian AutoCheck: Score, FAQ, data sources, sample report, price, license plate, flood and glossary pages (autocheck.com)
- AutoCheck Buyback Protection terms and Vehicle Buyback Protection page (autocheck.com)
- AutoCheck patent notice, U.S. Patent No. 8,005,759 (autocheck.com)
- CARFAX Buyback Guarantee Terms and Conditions (carfax.com)
- About CARFAX and Vehicle History Reports pages (carfax.com)
- Carfax Help Center, free Carfax reports (support.carfax.com)
- Indiana Secretary of State, Vehicle History Report service (app.vhr.sos.in.gov)
- CarMax, free AutoCheck report article (carmax.com); eBay Motors help (ebay.com)
- U.S. DOJ / BJA, NMVTIS (vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov)
- NHTSA recalls and odometer fraud (nhtsa.gov); 49 U.S.C. Chapter 327
- NICB VINCheck (nicb.org); DPPA, 18 U.S.C. § 2721 et seq.
- Carfax price: independent pricing listings, 2026; CarCheckerVIN prices: carcheckervin.com/pricing

How we made this guide: written by CarCheckerVIN with AI assistance, from the public sources listed above; figures, prices and links checked November 2026.

More free tools at carcheckervin.com

Free VIN check
VIN decoder
License plate lookup
Recall check
NMVTIS VIN check
Auction history
Carfax Buyback Guarantee
Carfax for dealers
Vehicle history report

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CarCheckerVIN