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Learning About Your Vehicle's History

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Before you purchase a vehicle—whether new or used—you will want to know its history. Not every car was driven by an experienced, cautious driver. Many have been through floods, which can permanently damage the electrical system. Some have been in major accidents that leave the vehicle vulnerable. Some may even have been stolen.

So how do you go about finding your vehicle's history? Your first step is to identify the VIN, or vehicle identification number. This long string of numbers and letters is found in various locations: on the driver's side door sill, in the engine compartment, on the driver's side wheel well, or on the dashboard/windshield, for example. The VIN is the key to unlocking a vehicle's history.

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