



# REVS and buying vehicles or boats

When you buy a second-hand vehicle or recreational boat there is a risk that there could be money owing on it. You can easily check this by contacting REVS.

## Be safe not sorry

If there's still money owing on the vehicle or boat you've just bought, it may be repossessed and you could lose all the money you paid.

## It takes one check to be sure

REVS is the Western Australian Government's Register of Encumbered Vehicles. It's a computer record of motorcycles, recreational boats, trucks, caravans, trailers and certain farm machinery that have money owing on them.

A REVS check may also tell if the vehicle you want to buy has been reported as stolen or recorded as written-off.

## How to use the service (for vehicles)

- Step 1 Note down the vehicle's registration, engine and chassis numbers. You'll find them on the registration papers or on the vehicle.
- Step 2 Phone REVS on 1300 30 40 24 or go online to [www.commerce.wa.gov.au/revs](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/revs). The REVS call centre is open from 8.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am - 4.00pm on weekends. Alternatively, you can call into our office on weekdays to conduct a check.
- Step 3 Purchase a REVS certificate for \$5.00. If no money is recorded as owing, this certificate will protect you against an encumbrance claim on that vehicle and possible repossession. Verbal advice does not provide this protection.

You can use Mastercard or Visa to purchase a certificate over the phone or online. The certificate will be mailed to you, or if ordered online you can immediately print a copy of the certificate.

If you call in, you can pay over the counter and we'll issue the certificate on the spot.

## Buying from a licensed motor vehicle dealer

In this instance, there's no need to check with REVS. Motor vehicle dealers are responsible for making sure that their vehicles are free of debt.

### How to use the service (for boats)

- Step 1 Note down the boat's Hull Identification Number (HIN), which is affixed to the hull.
- Step 2 Note down the engine numbers for all the vessel's motors.
- Step 3 Write down the boat's registration number (usually written on the hull).
- Step 4 Ring REVS on 1300 30 40 24 or go online to [www.commerce.wa.gov.au/revs](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/revs) to make your check.

### Buying from a boat dealer

You should **always** do a REVS check when buying a vessel from a boat dealer, just as you would if buying privately. This is an important difference from the REVS for cars service, where it is not necessary to do a REVS check when buying a vehicle from a licensed motor vehicle dealer.

### What if the boat I like doesn't have a HIN?

You can't do a REVS check if the boat doesn't have a HIN. If this is the case you will need to ask the owner to organise a HIN then do a REVS check. Boat owners are required to ensure a HIN plate has been affixed by either:

- the manufacturer (new boat); or
- when first registering; or
- prior to transfer or ownership.

### What to do if there's money owing

If REVS records show there is money owing and you wish to buy the vehicle or boat, you should follow these simple steps:

- Ask the seller to obtain a payout figure in writing from the financier.
- You should pay the financier direct the amount owing (to the maximum agreed sale price) and pay any balance to the seller.
- The seller should pay any outstanding balance to the financier at the same time.

You must ensure that the loan is paid out in full and obtain written confirmation of this, or risk repossession resulting in you losing both your money and the car or boat.

**Note:** Western Australian licensed motor vehicles or recreational boats can be checked with REVS WA. Where the vehicle or boat is licenced in another state, please check REVS for that state.

**National Relay Service: 13 36 77**  
**Quality of service feedback line: 1800 30 40 59**  
**Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) 131 450**

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#### Regional Offices

Goldfields/Esperance	(08) 9026 3250
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