

Avoiding a "Lemon"

Only a small number of cars are really "lemons." However, to avoid "lemon-type" problems, there are some steps you can take to ensure greater satisfaction with your new car purchase.

1. Make sure the car you buy is exactly...

...what the receipted bill-of-sale says you bought. Compare your bill-of-sale against both the car and the window sticker.

...the car you ordered. Check to make sure all options, equipment and accessories you want are included and every service listed has been completed.

...what the window sticker says it is. Check every accessory, piece of listed equipment, and service listed on the sticker. According to federal law, the window sticker must remain with the car until it is delivered to you, the consumer.

2. Wait for "dealer prep."

New cars require checking and varying degrees of service before they are delivered to the purchaser. Make sure the dealer preparation is completed by the dealer and that the service is listed and marked "paid" on the bill of sale.

3. Make sure there is a manufacturer's warranty with your new vehicle.

Also, if you purchase a dealer service contract or warranty, keep in mind that your service contract may not be honored at all other dealerships.

4. Do not complete the purchase of the vehicle until credit and financing have been approved by the lender.

5. Inspect and road test the car.

Drive it on roads you normally drive, with the loads you normally carry. If possible, drive it through a car wash to test for leaks.