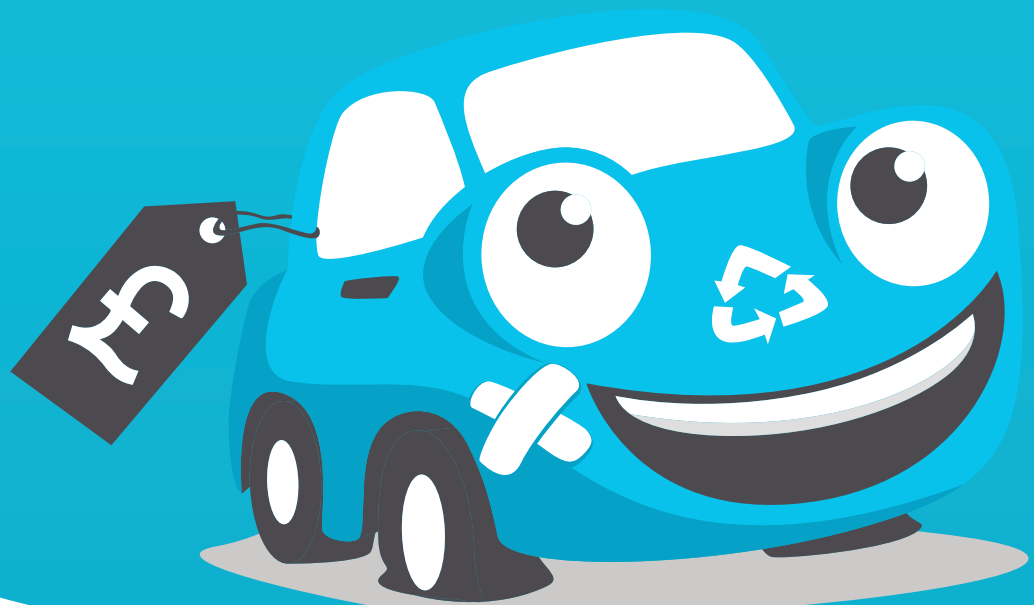


Guide to buying a salvage car

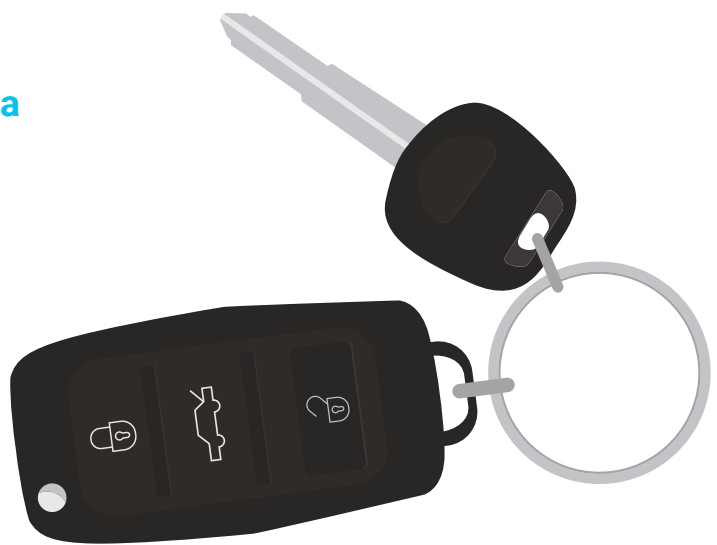
Buying a salvage car
has never been easier



Buying a new car can be an expensive process, even if you're buying a second-hand car from a dealership instead of a brand new one from a manufacturer's forecourt. For that reason, a number of potential car buyers now look into buying a salvage car instead of a second-hand car.

The term 'salvage car' is a name given to a vehicle that has been damaged but has then been professionally repaired to a quality where it is road legal again. While some buyers may be unsure about buying a salvage car, given its history, there's no reason why a salvage car can't perform the same way a second-hand version of the same car would, as long as you follow some simple steps when sourcing your salvage vehicle.

Read on for your guide to buying a salvage car.



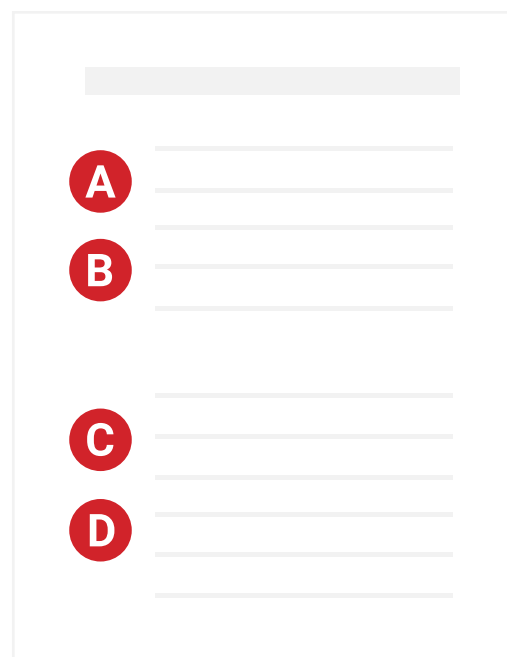
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Step 1: Understand the different salvage categories

When a car is damaged, it is given a category to denote the kind of damage it has received and what issues there may be that could damage its safety. In the past there have been four categories for scrap and salvage cars: Category A, Category B, Category C and Category D. Category A and B are used to describe scrap cars – cars that would never be allowed back on the roads due to the damage they have received – and Category C and D used to describe salvage cars that have received structural or non-structural damage that could potentially be repaired.

In October 2017, Categories C and D were adapted to better reflect their focus on the car's damage and safety instead of the cost of repair, and renamed to Categories S and N. You can find out more about what these categories represent in [our blog](#) on the subject.

When considering a salvage car for your next purchase, make sure that you're aware of the salvage category attached to the car. Category S and N are the two salvage categories that you'll want to focus on, but there may still be some cars with Category C and D designations since the old designations were not changed over to the new ones. A salvage car shouldn't be advertised without the category.



A form with a header bar and four sections labeled A, B, C, and D. Each section has three horizontal lines for text entry.

2

Step 2: Choose a salvage car from a reputable seller

When buying a salvage car, make sure that the seller you are buying from is a reputable and trusted source. This is a key consideration since you'll need to be sure that the salvage vehicle you are buying has been restored and fixed professionally, with a full history of its repairs provided.



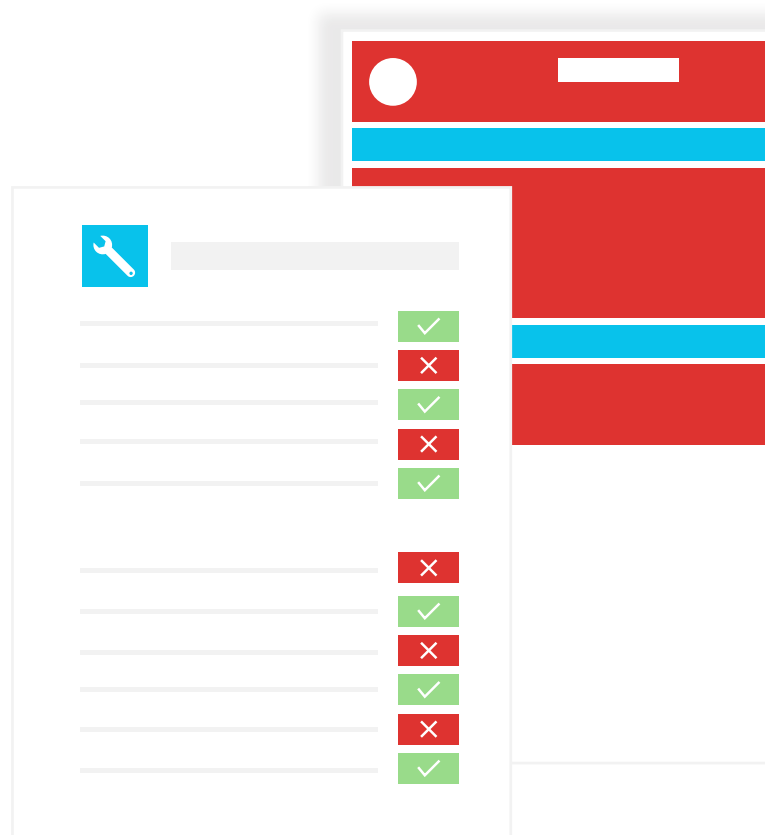
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Step 3: Run a history check on the vehicle

Before you buy your chosen salvage car, conduct a thorough history check on the vehicle and inspect it in person. The history check will highlight how the car was originally damaged, whether the damage was structural or non-structural, what category it was placed in, and how it was fixed.

The history check will also identify whether the car was a stolen recovered vehicle. This means that the vehicle had been stolen, written off by the insurance company when it couldn't be retrieved after three weeks, and then found or retrieved later and salvaged. When you inspect the vehicle, make sure to

catalogue any repairs that may still need to be carried out and ensure that the car is as expected from the advert.



4

Step 4: Research insurance companies

It's important to check out your insurance opportunities when considering a salvage vehicle. Certain insurance companies may have different approaches and offers available for insuring a salvage car. There will be limited offers for salvage cars, due to their history, and most insurance coverages with a salvage car will be more expensive than regular insurance and often come with reduced coverage.

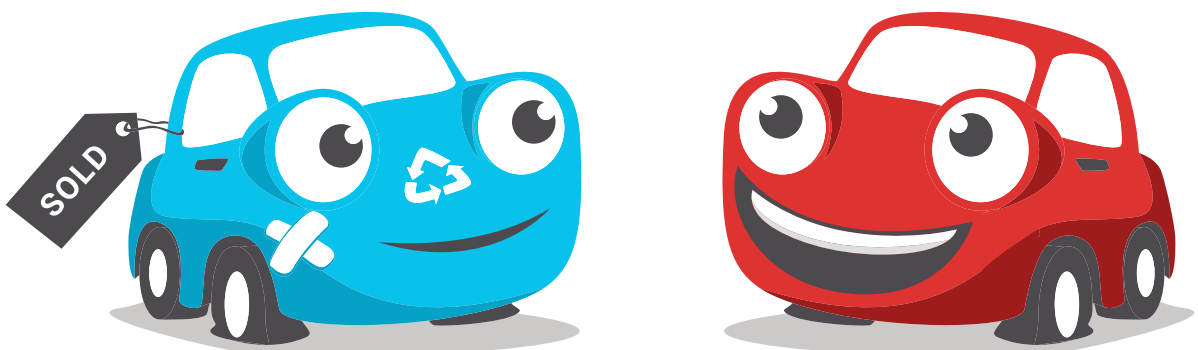
However, there will be options available for most salvage vehicles; it just might take a little longer to find one suitable for you.



4

Step 5: Buy your salvage car

Once you've reviewed the vehicle, its history, the insurance options available to you, and you're sure you're buying the salvage vehicle from a reputable buyer, it will be time for you to purchase your salvage car.



Frequently asked questions about buying a salvage car

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about buying a salvage car, along with our answers to help you fully prepare.

Why should I buy a salvage car?

Salvage cars are often priced a lot lower than their second-hand and new counterparts. While insurance for the vehicle may be higher than a non-salvage car, the overall cost of a salvage car can sometimes still be lower than buying a full-price or second-hand non-salvage vehicle.

How much will insuring a salvage car cost?

As we've mentioned, insuring a salvage car will often be more expensive due to this history of the vehicle, and insurance may only come with reduced coverage. All cars need to be insured to be road legal, so even if the cost is higher, it must still be done.

It may take longer to find the best policy for you, especially since some providers will ask for higher premiums due to safety concerns, or others will only offer very small premiums since they don't think the car is worth much.

Can I still register a salvage car with the DVLA?

Until October 2015, any cars under Category A, B or C would need to pass a Vehicle Identity Check (VIC) before the DVLA would provide a V5C for the car.

However, the VIC test is no longer required, but applications for V5Cs are limited to only Category C, D, S, and N vehicles – Cat A and B are unable to go back onto the roads.

Can I drive a salvage car?

As long as the car is registered with the DVLA, has been repaired to a professional standard, is road legal and has been insured, there's no reason why you cannot drive a salvage car.

If the car still needs some repairs made, it may not yet have been designated roadworthy. Having an MOT conducted after the repairs are complete will ensure that the car is officially road worthy.

Salvage cars at Scrap Car Comparison

While we don't sell salvage cars at Scrap Car Comparison, our network of trusted and reputable buyers do. Our buyers are looking for scrap cars in every category, from owners who don't want to consider the costs of repairing the vehicle themselves or are looking to make some cash from their damaged vehicle.

Our [easy quote tool](#) will help you find out exactly how much you could earn from your scrap or salvage car, simply by entering your postcode and the vehicle registration. From there, our Scrap Car Collection service will be able to pick up the vehicle, anywhere in the UK, and transport it straight to the buyer for no fee.

We're dedicated to getting you the best price for your vehicle and want to make sure that the entire process is quick, easy and hassle free.