

AutoShack Weekly Tip



There are thousands of cars for sale at auctions...but how can I navigate through the chaff?



- Salvage cars have become common imports into developing countries. Ghana is no exception.
- It is beneficial to educate yourself about salvage types, the implications of buying a salvage vehicle, and what to look out for if you decide to buy one.
- **What are salvage cars?** A vehicle is considered salvage when an insurance company considers it a total loss. In other words, it will cost more to **SALVAGE** the vehicle than the vehicle is worth.
- The salvage type is determined by the cause of damage.
- **How do vehicles become salvage?**
 - Collision
 - Theft
 - Weather damage (hail, flood)
 - Fire
 - Vandalism
 - Biohazard

- Salvage cars have become an attractive low cost option for many prospective vehicle owners. Obviously, they are not without issues but can be excellent if you find the right one.
- Here are some things to look out for. We discuss three of them today and the rest next week. If you're buying through a car dealer ask about these things.
- **Starts and Runs**
 - Make sure the vehicle can start and move under its own power.
 - A vehicle that starts but won't move may have a transmission problem.
 - A vehicle that doesn't start at all may have an internal engine problem.

- **Consider Frame Damage**

- The frame is the foundation on which the vehicle is built.
- If there is frame damage your vehicle, will never be properly aligned. You will have to change suspension parts and tires more often than normal.
- To improve your chances of avoiding frame damage, consider vehicles with damage above the bumper and with collision in the rear only.
- Vehicles with side impacts are notorious for frame damage. Unless damage is minimal, avoid if possible.

- **Flood Cars**

- Avoid flood cars like the plague.
- They cause both mechanical and electrical problems.
- While the mechanical problems may be easier to fix, the electrical problems may linger for the life of the car.
- Electrical problems can cause the entire wiring network of the car to rust effectively making the car a piece of junk.
- I have seen some strange things with flood cars. For example, you turn on your lights and the radio and wiper start working.

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- A majority of the tip topics are suggested by others based on their experiences.
- Consider helping others to benefit from your experiences by suggesting a topic for our tip bank based on your car troubles, experiences or observations.

CREDITS

- ✓ Salvage yard photo: www.clevescene.com