

Moving to the Lone Star State is exciting, but the Texas DMV (TxDMV) and Department of Public Safety (DPS) have a very specific "order of operations" you must follow.

In Texas, you cannot get a driver's license until you register your vehicle, and you cannot register your vehicle until it is insured and inspected. Use this 30-60-90 day timeline to stay compliant.

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Step 1: Secure Texas Auto Insurance

### **Timeline: Within 30 days of moving**

Before you do anything else, your insurance must meet Texas state law.

- **Update Your Policy:** Contact your agent to switch your garaging address to Texas.
- **Verify Limits:** Texas requires **30/60/25** liability limits (\$30k per person, \$60k per accident, \$25k for property damage).
- **Get Your Card:** You will need a digital or paper Texas insurance card for your vehicle inspection and registration.

## **Step 2: Vehicle Inspection**

### **Timeline: Before Registration**

Take your vehicle to a certified **Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)** inspection station. (Look for the "Official Inspection Station" sign at local repair shops or gas stations).

- **What to Bring:** Your Texas insurance card and payment.
- **What You'll Get:** A **Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR)**. You must have this physical or digital report to register your car.
- **Note:** In 2026, Bexar County (San Antonio) has joined other major metros in requiring **emissions testing** in addition to the safety check.

## Step 3: Registration & Title

**Timeline:** Within 30 days of moving

This is handled at your **County Tax Assessor-Collector** office, not the driver's license office.

- **Documents Needed:**
  - Your out-of-state **Title** (or your registration receipt if a bank holds the title).
  - The **Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR)** from Step 2.
  - Proof of **Texas Insurance**.
  - Completed **Form 130-U** (Application for Texas Title).
- **Fees:** Expect to pay a registration fee (approx. \$51.75) plus a "New Resident Tax" (\$90) in lieu of full sales tax.
- **Outcome:** You will receive your Texas license plates and a registration sticker.

## Step 4: Texas Driver's License

**Timeline:** Within 90 days of moving

Once your vehicle is registered, you can finally head to the **Texas DPS** (Driver License Office).

- **Make an Appointment:** Most Texas DPS offices require appointments booked weeks in advance online.
- **Documents Needed:**
  - **Proof of Identity** (Passport or Birth Certificate).
  - **Social Security Card**.
  - **Two Proofs of Residency** (Utility bill, lease, or bank statement).
  - **Proof of Texas Registration** (The blue receipt you got in Step 3).
  - **Current Out-of-State License** (You will surrender this).
- **Testing:** If you have a valid, unexpired out-of-state license, the written and driving exams are typically waived. You will only need to pass a vision test.

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## New Resident Checklist Summary

<b>Task</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Where to Go</b>
<b>Get Insurance</b>	Day 1	Your Insurance Agent
<b>Inspection</b>	Before Day 30	Certified Inspection Station
<b>Register Car</b>	<b>Day 30</b>	County Tax Office
<b>Get License</b>	<b>Day 90</b>	Texas DPS Office