

## **If I purchase a used car from a dealer or individual owner, am I responsible for the unpaid taxes of the previous owner?**

Yes. As stated above, Ad valorem tax is a property tax and not a use tax and follows the property from owner to owner. Therefore, unlike registration fees, taxes accumulate even when a vehicle is not used on the highway. When an Alabama resident buys a vehicle with an outstanding ad valorem tax lien, the buyer must: Pay all ad valorem tax that has accrued on the purchased vehicle since it was last registered and any applicable interest and penalties on taxes that are delinquent, except for the ad valorem taxes that would have been due in arrears for the 1999 tax year. Also, transfer the buyer's current plate to the vehicle or purchase a new plate for the vehicle within 20 days of acquisition to avoid a late penalty.