

Spotting a curber online

Shopping for a vehicle on the internet? Here's a guide to help you recognize, reject and report fraud that could occur online.

Shopping online:

Before you visit the website of an automotive business or look for a private sale vehicle on an online classified website, go to amvic.org and familiarize yourself with your consumer rights.

Check out these webpages from amvic.org:

- [All-in pricing](#)
- [Before you sign](#)
- [Consumer guides](#)

Know what a curber is:

A curber is an illegal, unlicensed seller, often selling damaged, stolen or odometer-tampered vehicles. Consumers who buy these vehicles are often disappointed and find that when problems surface, the seller is gone and they have limited recourse.

Some curbbers may look like a legitimate automotive business. Verify the business is licensed and the salespeople are registered by using AMVIC's [online database](#).

Curbers create an unfair marketplace for both consumers and industry in Alberta by undermining consumer protection laws and putting the public at a financial and safety risk.

Recognize:

When browsing online classified websites, check out the profile of the seller and be on high alert for any red flags when communicating with sellers.

- **Do they have multiple cars listed?** Legitimate private sellers usually only have one vehicle for sale.
- **Have you seen their email or number on ads for other vehicles?** Sometimes curbbers buy used cars and re-list them after some time has passed to try to flip them. This is still considered operating as an illegal seller.
- **Sometimes the seller will tell a sad story on why they have to sell the vehicle.** Always focus on the actual vehicle and not the story around it.
- **The seller will only send you photos already uploaded on the classified ad or won't let you see the vehicle in-person?** Do not trust everything you see online. Make sure to see the vehicle in-person.
- **Are they asking you to send money?** Ask why and do not be pressured into it. Be prepared to walk away from the deal if you have to.

Reject:

If you think you are dealing with a curber, walk away from the deal. There are other vehicles out there. Do not be in a hurry to purchase a vehicle. Take the time to do your research and understand all the risks involved when shopping online.

Report:

Help AMVIC shut down curbbers! Visit amvic.org to file a complaint online so AMVIC can investigate any curbing activity to protect consumers and industry.