What to Do to Avoid Buying Flood-damaged Used Cars

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The country experienced three major Atlantic hurricanes in 2011â€"Katia, Ophelia, and Irene - incurring damage that totaled over ten billion dollars. These storms ravaged people's lives and property. Consequently, these natural disasters also affected the automotive industry. With the heavy rains, flood-damaged cars became rampant in the car selling market. If you're planning to buy a used car, it is best to avoid these flood-damaged vehicles to protect yourself from a bad investment and the high risk of road accidents. Here are some tips on how to avoid buying these vehicles.

Check under the Hood

With the increasing number of flood-damaged used cars in the market, some sellers have become more creative in concealing telltale signs of water intrusion in the units they offer to unknowing customers. When dealing with a used car seller, be sure to check under the vehicle's hood for signs of water damage. Putting new paint, upholstery, and carpeting may render a flood-damaged car externally appealing, but an unscrupulous seller cannot easily change mechanical attributes.

Inspect the Engine

Today, engines can be more vulnerable to flooding because of integrated electronics. While knee-high water may not penetrate the engine, waist-deep floodwater can render it useless. Most people may not have the necessary technical and mechanical know-how to recognize engine problems, but you can ask someone who knows engine electrical diagnosis to inspect a unit for you. Before buying the vehicle, you should ensure that the engine is still functional and in good condition.

Ask About the Price

Flood-damaged cars typically have low price tags to attract buyers. Despite such highly attractive offers, you should keep in mind that quality also often requires a reasonable price. When buying used cars in Indianapolis IN, wisely ask how the dealer arrived at that specific amount. Doing this allows you to save from costly repairs and replacement in the future.

Be Suspicious

If you don't have a mechanic to assist you in determining vehicle quality, be extra vigilant about key signs of flood damage in a used car. With heightened awareness, you can detect damage in the car body, interiors, and the engine. Is there rusting under the gas and brake pedals? Do you see silt or mud under the seats or in the glove compartment? Are the interior upholstery and carpet damp and discolored? Quality used cars Indianapolis IN dealers sell should not have any of these

Order a Vehicle History Report

To complete your inspection of the used cars Indianapolis Indiana locals recommend, have a certified mechanic inspect them and order a vehicle history report. This document provides information on the vehicle's past accidents or repairs.

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