

Auto Manufacturers Stop Warranty Coverage on Canadian Vehicles

Thinking about buying a low mileage Canadian car? In some cases, you can save a lot of money, and get some pretty good deals on "low mileage" used cars that have been imported from Canada. Mechanically, the vehicles are almost the same, and all post 1998 models should comply with U.S. emission standards in all states. Before you buy, here are some things to consider:

1. In recent months, several major U.S. auto manufacturers have implemented policies regarding warranty coverage on vehicles manufactured for sale in Canada. If the vehicle is not registered in Canada, local dealers may not perform warranty work. Some auto dealers are offering replacement "warranties" (which are really service contracts) to compensate for this.

Make sure you read the terms and conditions of the replacement warranty to make sure you understand what is and is not covered, and who will perform the work.

2. Even though they look and smell new, and have very few miles (sometimes less than 100!) Canadian vehicles sold in Alaska are considered used vehicles. This means Alaska's Lemon Law will not apply to the vehicle if you have a problem that cannot be fixed. Our Lemon Law only applies to new vehicles.

3. Most Canadian vehicles were originally equipped with instrument clusters that showed the odometer reading in kilometers. Before the vehicle was imported to the U.S., this instrument cluster was probably changed out with one that read in miles. Be certain you get all the documentation from the dealer concerning the odometer re-calibration. Only a registered importer can change an odometer, and there are specific rules on how it must be done.