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MEDIA CONTACT: Kevin Chambers
Director of Communications
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
(404) 651-7970

Georgia's Clean Air Force Offers Seven Key Guidelines for Buying a Pre-Owned Vehicle

ATLANTA (September 3, 2019) – According to a 2018 used car report from McKinsey & Company, Americans buy 39.4 million used cars each year. Since Georgia motorists rely so heavily on their cars for transportation, choosing the right pre-owned automobile is important. Utilizing the best resources can help with this decision.

[Georgia's Clean Air Force](#), in partnership with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), offers seven expert tips to help motorists in the market for a pre-owned vehicle.

“Prior to buying a pre-owned vehicle, it’s imperative that consumers research its history. Researching a potential buy can save you time and money later,” said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Program Manager, Georgia EPD.

- **Obtain a Free Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR).** To view a free summary of the most recent vehicle inspection reports, motorists should visit www.cleanairforce.com/motorists/vir-reprints/. This report informs you if the vehicle has had a valid, passing emissions inspection performed within the last 12 months.
- **Ask for a Carfax Report.** Carfax reports give you the history of the vehicle, letting you know if the vehicle has been involved in an accident or other negative event. When you’re ready to buy, check to see if the dealership will run this report for you. If not, you can easily run a report by visiting www.carcfax.com.
- **Research the Dealer.** Knowing who you are purchasing a pre-owned vehicle from is a vital step in the buying process. By reading reviews for any dealerships or sellers, you can eliminate those that are untrustworthy or have negative comments posted about the vehicles they sell.

- **Acquire a Pre-Purchase Inspection.** Employ a trusted third party to perform a pre-purchase inspection.
- **Take a Mechanic to a Private Sale.** Bring a trusted mechanic with you to a private sale so you don't drive home with a lemon.
- **Complete an On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) Test.** Not sure what this entails? An on-board diagnostic (OBD) test scans the vehicle for specific codes that indicate when the vehicle had certain repairs, or if it has undergone recommended preventative maintenance services. This is helpful information to know when determining what kind of damage or work has been done in the past.
- **Choose Your County Wisely.** Sellers located outside of metro Atlanta's 13-county testing area are not required to provide a passing emissions test at the time of sale. You should take this into consideration if you reside in one of the 13 counties where passing an annual emissions test is required.

For additional information or to download an infographic on tips for buying a pre-owned vehicle, visit the Georgia's Clean Air Force website at <http://www.cleanairforce.com>.

About Georgia's Clean Air Force

Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), in partnership with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), is responsible for the management of the Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program throughout Atlanta's 13 metro counties. Since 1996, Georgia's Inspection and Maintenance Program has prevented more than 1.9 million tons of harmful ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe, the equivalent of removing 13,400 vehicles from the road or planting more than 400 million trees. It is estimated that Georgia residents have saved \$311 million in utility bills since 1996 due to cleaner air. The program has also identified and repaired more than 3.6 million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, please visit <http://www.cleanairforce.com>.

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