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# **Water-Damaged Vehicles Expected To Flood the Market Following Natural Disasters**

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### **Vehicle Inspections Picture**

Receding floodwaters in the U.S. are prompting another worry — that water-damaged vehicles will soon flood the market. | May 26, 2011 | AiMinspections.com

# Water-Damaged Vehicles Expected To Flood the Market Following Natural Disasters

By [Anita Liener](#), Correspondent | Published May 27, 2011



## Just the Facts:

- **Experts warn "unwary consumers" that water-damaged vehicles are expected to flood the market in the next year following such natural disasters as the Mississippi River crest.**
- **Flood-damaged vehicles are expected to wind up on the used-car market in the U.S.**
- **One professional inspector says consumers can protect themselves by checking for telltale signs of flooding; he once found "two fish under a backseat" in one inspection.**

**LONG BEACH, California** — The Mississippi River crest finally passed through the South this week, leaving misery in its wake and prompting experts to warn "unwary consumers" that water-damaged vehicles are expected to flood the market in the next year.

As the water recedes, consumers are being told to look for telltale signs of flooding in used vehicles.

[AiM Mobile Inspections](#) said in a statement that buyers should check for musty odors in the vehicle, mud in the seatbelt tracks or seatbelt tensioners, and water or condensation in the headlights or taillights. Other signs of flood damage include water in the spare-tire well in the trunk, a sagging headliner, corrosion in the undercarriage and even wildlife. "I found two fish under a backseat once," said AiM Mobile Inspections' Carl Sullivan. "That was a pretty sure sign the car had been flooded."

Many states also issue a flood or salvage title to a vehicle that has been submerged or flood-damaged. Such information can be found on a vehicle history report.

Above-average rains and an outbreak of deadly tornadoes have pounded parts of the U.S. this spring. Weather.com warns drivers that "flash floods can come rapidly and unexpectedly" and says "do not drive through flooded areas."

"Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or possible stalling," it said. "One foot of water will float many vehicles. Two feet of rushing water can sweep away

most vehicles — including SUVs and pickups."

**Inside Line says:** If you find fish in the backseat, back out of the deal on that used car.

## 6 Comments

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dgmail says:

03:15 AM, 05/31/2011

Not to mention all of the sunami and radioactive vehicles the japanese brands are going to try and dump over here, to unsuspecting & ignorant import buying Americans.

noburgers says:

08:10 PM, 05/30/2011

Kia Sole? Buy a Ford--by name, capable of crossing a river safely. Or maybe a Cruze.

help me out people. Oh sorry, it's not a caption contest.

vache1 says:

11:47 PM, 05/28/2011

What's with the Euro 'Vette in the picture?

ambee514 says:

09:33 PM, 05/28/2011

"water damaged cars to flood the market"... pun intended? If it was intentional, mildly humorous; if not, poor word choice indeed

90in55 says:

08:36 AM, 05/28/2011

I was considering a KIA Sole.

DLu says:

07:23 AM, 05/27/2011

In all seriousness, any car that looks to be "too good a deal to pass up" should raise red flags. People are

always trying to make a quick buck off the unsuspecting consumer, whether it's with flooded cars or stolen cars or whatever.

If you don't know anything about cars, then take it to a trusted mechanic and get it checked out!!!

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