

# Floor Covering Media

Your Gateway to the Floor Covering Industry

## A few suggestions for detecting flood damage in used vehicles



Poised to purchase a used vehicle? Keep in mind that you will be seeing your share of flood-damaged, automobiles; at auctions, dealer lots and elsewhere. According to the [Red Cross](#), flooding in Louisiana was the worst domestic disaster since [Hurricane Sandy](#) in 2012. Four-years later, [Hurricane Matthew](#) has compounded this disaster.



Rising floodwaters of Hurricane Matthew is wreaking havoc in communities, damaging homes, businesses and vehicles. Consumers in the market for a used vehicle are advised to inspect the vehicles for flood-damage, thoroughly.



Since Hurricane Katrina, vehicle shoppers have been learning how to detect flood damage, regardless of where they live. Submerged vehicles are unlikely to be the same, according to the [Alliance Inspection Management \(AIM\)](#). Flooding from storms this year have washed away roads, destroyed buildings, ruined property and displaced residents; all of which are likely to affect shopping for used vehicles for about a year, at least.

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AIM inspects vehicles and offers detailed condition reports available to consumers, dealers, manufacturers and auctions. AIM's 150-point inspection identifies vehicle problems vehicles; including the issues common to flood-damaged vehicles. States issue salvage titles for submerged or flood-damaged vehicles. Look for salvage titles in the vehicle history report.

Unfortunately, there are sellers who are not above selling such damaged goods before the salvage title has been issued, which makes identifying flood damage in vehicles for sale important for buyers. How does someone go about detecting the warning signs of a used vehicle with flood damage?

Smell a musty odor? This may be from moldy carpeting or padding! Remove the carpeting to determine how far the flood waters have risen. Look for water or any residual moisture under the carpeting.

Is there mud in the seat belt tracks or in the seat belt tensioners? This is another sign that the vehicle has flood damage. Are there traces of water or condensation in the headlights or taillights? It is plausible that the vehicle has flood damage. Though it is not a definitive sign of flood damage, as some accidents can cause water or condensation in the headlights.



Other signs of flood damage:

Water in trunk spare tire wells

Sagging vehicle interior [headliner](#)

Residual moisture in the seats

Water on floor under seats.

Undercarriage Corrosion:

Inspect:

- brake lines-
- fuel tank-
- springs-
- shock towers-

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Check the engine, the electronics, the fuel system, the airbags and brakes. AIM is a California-based, team of inspectors and auditors fully equipped with the latest technology for consistent, reliable and timely vehicle information.

Visit AIM [HERE](#) or [HERE](#)  
(for mobile inspections)

## Flooring Updates

*By Betty*

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## Flooring Network

For those in the market and those that serve it

Floor Covering Media, a business network serving the floor covering industry, provides readers timely, objective news and information about flooring topics.

## Floor Search

Answers to Questions About Flooring

Readers may conveniently retrieve this timely, objective news and information at [Floor Search.info](http://FloorSearch.info), which is Floor Covering Media's public search engine.