

Minnesota Lifetime Trailer Registration

What Does "Lifetime" Really Mean?



If you plan to **buy, or sell,** a small utility trailer in Minnesota, you may be familiar with the permanent registration sticker - often called a **"lifetime"** sticker. A common misconception is:

"It has a lifetime sticker, so when I buy it, I don't need to transfer it."

That is NOT correct!

1 Lifetime Refers to the REGISTRATION of the Trailer – Not the Owner

Minnesota provides permanent registration for qualifying trailers registered at a gross vehicle weight of 3,000 pounds or less. The registration can remain valid for the life of the trailer rather than being renewed annually.

However, permanent registration does not eliminate the requirement to transfer ownership. When a trailer is sold or given to someone else, the new owner needs to have the trailer transferred into their name.

2 Why is the Transfer Important?

When a trailer is sold, Minnesota's motor vehicle records need to reflect the new owner.

If the trailer has not been transferred from the **seller to buyer,** it can create problems such as trailers being abandoned on public or private property or involved in an accident that caused property damage or person injury.

The previous owner could be contacted regarding the trailer and may have to address legal issues or other fees/fines.

3 "But My Trailer Doesn't Have a Title"

That can be perfectly normal. Many smaller Minnesota utility trailers are not titled.

However, even small utility trailers with a lien will have a title issued.

If a trailer has been titled, it will always be titled. If a trailer has a title, a Bill of Sale (BOS) or PS2000 form will **NOT** work for transfer – a title is required to transfer ownership.

4 Buyers AND Sellers - Keep Good Records

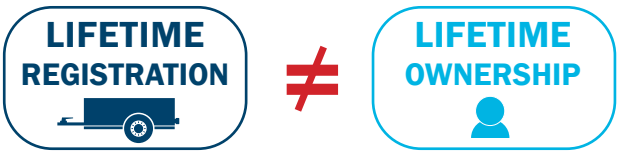
Even with a permanent sticker, buyers still need to get the proper ownership documents and transfer the trailer into their name.

Keeping records of the sale is just as important for the seller as it is for the buyer.

Both the buyer and seller should record the sale date, trailer VIN and description, and each other's full legal name and physical and mailing addresses. Exchange phone numbers or email addresses if possible. Each party should keep a copy of the bill of sale and any other transfer documents.

5 An Easy Way to Remember the Difference:

THE REGISTRATION MAY BE PERMANENT.
THE OWNERSHIP IS NOT.



When the owner changes, the ownership record needs to change too. A little paperwork at the time of the sale can prevent a much bigger problem down the road.

Questions? We're happy to help!

Stop into the Renville County Driver and Vehicle Services Office or contact the office at:

320-523-3612
licenses@renvillecountymn.gov

Renville COUNTY
Service - Stewardship - Shared Responsibility

Office Hours: Monday - Friday | 8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

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