

DLVC COASTAL CYCLES

Buying a Vintage Motorcycle Without a Title

A practical checklist to evaluate risk, ownership, and value

1. Verify the Basics

- Confirm Year, Make, Model
- VIN present and readable
- VIN matches frame

2. Understand the Paperwork

- Clean Title
- Bill of Sale
- Old registration
- No paperwork

3. Ask Key Questions

- How long owned?
- Where acquired?
- Ever registered?
- Any prior paperwork?

4. Check Your State Rules

- Can your state issue a title?
- Bonded title available?
- Antique exemptions?

5. Evaluate Risk

- Low: Bill of sale + history
- Medium: limited paperwork
- High: no paperwork or VIN issues

6. Adjust Value

- Clean title = full value
- Bill of sale = reduced
- No title = deep discount

7. Intended Use

- Road use?
- Parts bike?
- Project?

8. Watch Red Flags

- VIN tampering
- Avoided questions
- Story inconsistent
- No proof of title path

9. Backup Plan

- What if title cannot be obtained?
- OK with off-road or project?

10. Final Decision

- Are you buying a motorcycle or a paperwork problem?



DLVC Rule: Ownership should never be uncertain.