

# Which Vehicle Details Can (and Cannot) Be Identified By The VIN Pattern

## What is a VIN Pattern?

Positions:			1-8		10 & 11											
World Manufacturer Identifier (WMI)			Vehicle Descriptor Section (VDS)			Check Digit	Model Year	Plant	Serial Number							
S	B	M	1	3	G	A	A	1	H	W	0	0	2	1	2	5

✔ Always

⚡ Sometimes | ✖ Hardly Ever



### ✔ Model & Model Year

Model is always encoded in the VDS section  
Model year is required to be identified by the 10th digit of the VIN (with a little help from the 7th digit).



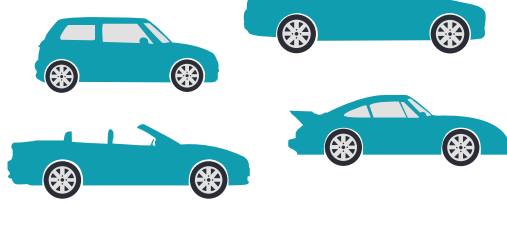
### ✔ Engine

The VIN pattern is specific to a unique engine from the OEM. The engine block, cylinders, number of valves and displacement are always specific to VIN, while aspiration and fuel type --though almost always captured by the VIN-- can be excluded.



### ✔ Vehicle Type

Vehicle type is captured consistently in the VIN. It was once required to be captured in the WMI, but since model year 2010, the vehicle type requirement has shifted to the vehicle descriptor section (VDS).



### ✔ Body Style & Doors

When a year/make/model combination has more than one body type, cab type or door combination, each variant is captured by unique elements of the VIN pattern.



### ✔ Brand or Make

This is the badge the vehicle is sold under. For example, VW is the brand the Routan minivan is sold under, but it was manufactured at a Chrysler plant in Canada.



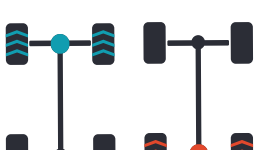
### ✔ Country of Origin

The first digit of the WMI section of the VIN (positions 1-3) will identify the country where the vehicle was manufactured.



### ✔ Manufacturer & Plant

The manufacturer of the vehicle is identified within the WMI by the 2nd and 3rd digits of the VIN. The 11th digit is used to identify the plant that produced the finished vehicle.



### ✔ Drive Type

The drive type(s), aka drivetrains, available for each vehicle are almost always captured in the VIN.



### ✔ GVW Range

Though the gross vehicle weight rating and curb weight of the vehicle are not VIN-specific, the GVW range or "tonnage" category of the vehicle is. This allows you to identify the category (light, medium or heavy-duty) or "tonnage" of the vehicle.



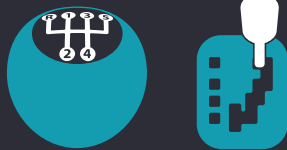
### ✔ Restraint

The VIN does not usually capture all the details of the passive (think seat belts) and active (think airbags) restraint systems. However, it does identify, at a general level, the restraint systems installed on the vehicle.



### ⚡ Trim

The information encoded into the VIN pattern does not consistently identify the vehicle's trim, though there are several VINs that are trim-specific.



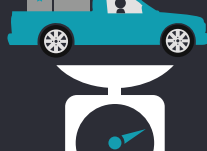
### ⚡ Transmission

Transmission is rarely encoded in the VIN pattern. However, in scenarios where a vehicle's VIN pattern encodes a combination of the engine and model (and possibly trim), and only one transmission option is available, the transmission will be tied to the VIN by default.



### ⚡ Curb Weight

When a VIN is specific to a style or trim, a base curb weight can be determined. However, optional equipment added to the vehicle can change this value by hundreds of pounds.



### ⚡ GVW Rating

While the VIN pattern encodes gross vehicle weight **range** (GVWR) for light-duty and multipurpose passenger vehicles (MPV), gross vehicle weight **rating** cannot be determined by VIN pattern, unless style/trim is encoded.



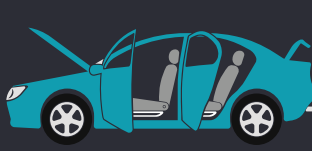
### ⚡ Features

The VIN pattern does not capture the vehicle's features or standard equipment directly. However, most data providers can use the vehicle details identified by the VIN pattern to provide a list of standard equipment tied to the vehicle.



### ✖ Exterior Color

Exterior paint color is never encoded in the VIN pattern. However, on rare occasion when there's only one exterior color for a specific trim, the color may be identified by the VIN pattern alone.



### ✖ Interior Color

While there are some models and trims that may have only one interior color choice, the VIN pattern does not identify this.



### ✖ Upholstery

Some VINs may identify the vehicle's upholstery indirectly by identifying a model, or possibly a trim, that has only one upholstery option. However, upholstery is not encoded in the VIN pattern.



### ✖ Optional Equipment

The optional equipment installed on a vehicle is not encoded in the VIN. However, most data providers can tie this information back to the VIN by referencing OEM option codes.



### ✖ Price

Since the trim and optional equipment installed on vehicles are not identified by the VIN pattern, it cannot be used alone to provide an accurate MSRP.

Free White Paper: Decoding the VIN →

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