

AIRCHECK TEXAS DRIVE A CLEAN MACHINE PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I qualify for assistance?

To be eligible for assistance, you must:

- Have a total annual family income that meets program guidelines, listed below

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Eligible Income	\$32,670	\$44,130	\$55,590	\$67,050	\$78,510	\$89,970	\$101,430	\$112,890

Over 8 – add \$11,460 for each additional member

- You may automatically be eligible for assistance if you already receive financial assistance from federal, state, or county social services, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Medicaid, Food Stamps, or other public programs.
- Have a vehicle 2 to 24 years old that has:
 1. Failed the AirCheck Texas emissions test;
 2. Passed the DPS safety inspection;
 3. Currently registered in a participating county;
 4. Been registered in a participating county for 12 of the past 15 months; and
 5. Passed both the safety and emissions portion of the state inspection within the last 15 months (for replacement)
 6. Is able to be driven under its' own power to a participating emissions repair facility or dealership

What do I need to send to determine eligibility?

You must submit:

- A completed and signed application, and
- Income documents of all adults in the household (unemployment statement for those not currently employed), and
- Copy of the failing (Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR)).

What proof of income is acceptable?

Submit copies with your application

- paystubs for the last three months
- most recent federal income tax return (Form 1040, pages 1 and 2)
- unemployment benefits letter
- documentation verifying Federal or State Assistance (Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, etc)

Which counties participate in the program?

The 5 counties that currently participate in the Houston Galveston area are: Brazoria, Galveston, Harris, and Montgomery.

Where are the application and household income documents for all adults mailed or faxed to?

*AirCheck Texas Program
P.O. Box 22777
Houston, TX 77027-2777
Fax: 832-681-2530*

Can multiple vouchers be combined toward one replacement vehicle?

No, only one valid voucher is applied toward the purchase of one replacement vehicle.

Can an individual retire more than one vehicle through the program?

Yes, an individual can retire only one vehicle in a twelve-month period but can come back through the program the next year.

Where can I find information about the eligible Tier 2 Bin 5 or cleaner replacement vehicles?

You can visit www.aircheckhouston or www.driveacleanmachine.org to find a list of eligible vehicles.

What is the sales price limit allowed for a replacement vehicle?

The total sales price cannot exceed \$35,000, before tax, title and license (the sales price amount listed on line 21a of the Application for Texas Certificate of Title).

Can an individual lease the replacement vehicle?

No, lease agreements are not allowed. The vehicle must be purchased by the participant.

What is the dealer's responsibility with the retired vehicle title?

The dealer must transfer a clear title along with the retired vehicle to the participating dismantler.

Does the AirCheck participant need to be approved for financing before completing the sale?

Yes, make sure that the AirCheck Texas participant has been approved for their loan before putting them into the replacement vehicle and transferring the retired vehicle to the dismantler. There have been a few cases where a participant was pulled from the replacement vehicle without qualifying for a loan but the retired vehicle was already scrapped. This ensures that we eliminate this from complicating the process for both parties.

Is a cosigner allowed for the replacement vehicle?

Yes, the State will allow a cosigner as long as the person lives in the same household as the AirCheck Texas participant/vehicle owner. H-GAC considered the cosigner's income when qualifying a participant for the program. Any eligible cosigners must be listed on the voucher.

Example - A participant's wife may be a cosigner on the new loan (including having her name on the application for title) even if the retired vehicle is just in the husband's name because the wife lives in the same household. The household income had been verified to qualify for a voucher, which includes both the husband and wife's income.

Can I get an extension on my voucher?

No. Vouchers are valid 60 days from the approval date. An applicant can reapply if the voucher expires.

Is a co-signer who doesn't live in the same household allowed for the replacement vehicle?

No. The State will not allow a cosigner who doesn't live in the same household because allowing individuals outside of the household to co-sign on financing the vehicle unreasonably circumvents the eligibility requirement established by the Texas legislature and Commission rule.

What if the participant moved since receiving the voucher?

That is fine, but the dealer will need to provide proof that the participant has moved since they received the voucher in order for the Regional Administrator (H-GAC) to have the most current information. A new voucher will not need to be issued.

What if the participant recently got married or changed their name since receiving the voucher?

That is fine, but the dealer will need to provide a copy of the name change (copy of the marriage license, divorce decree, etc.) documenting the old and new names. A new voucher will not need to be issued.

What if the participant has a second vehicle (non-AirCheck) they wish to trade in?

That is fine, but the dealer will need to document out to the side on the Application for Texas Certificate of Title (line 21(b), Less Trade-In Amount) that \$3,000/\$3,500 is for AirCheck and x-amount is for an additional trade-in.

What is vehicle replacement/retirement?

If your vehicle is unable to be repaired, or you choose to replace your vehicle rather than repair it, the program can assist in the purchase of another vehicle. In order to be eligible to replace/retire a vehicle, you must:

- Meet the family income guidelines;
- Meet the vehicle guidelines;
- Purchase the replacement vehicle through any participating dealer in Texas.

When will I find out if I am eligible for assistance?

As soon as we have verified that your family income meets the guidelines and your vehicle is eligible, we will issue a voucher along with a list of DPS Recognized Emissions Repair Facilities that perform emissions-related repairs. This process will be completed within 5-7 days after receipt of the application. A voucher will be mailed or a letter explaining why your vehicle is not eligible.

Can I do the repairs myself?

No. All repairs must be performed by a DPS Recognized Emissions Repair Facility. Furthermore, you must use a repair facility from the list provided with the voucher since Travis County has an agreement with these facilities to participate in the program.

Can I use the AirCheck Texas financial assistance to repair other problems so I can pass the safety inspection?

No. We can only help you repair the vehicle's emissions systems. You are responsible for making sure that your vehicle passes the safety portion of the inspection.