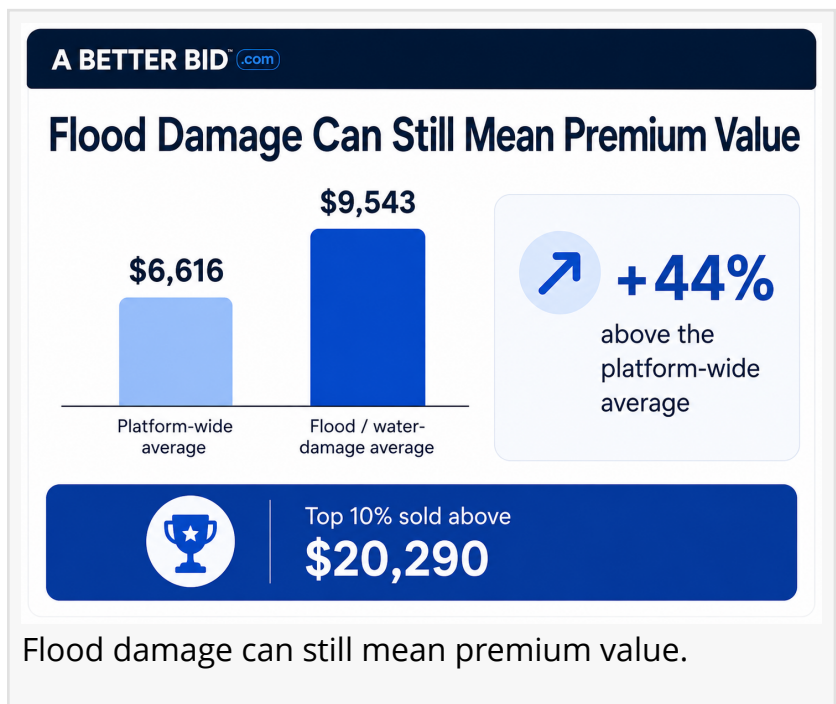


A Better Bid: Flood-Damaged Cars Sell for 44% Above the Average Auction Price

Flood-damaged cars sell for well above the platform average — a gap that holds at the median and widens sharply after a major hurricane.

NORTH MIAMI BEACH, FL, UNITED STATES, July 29, 2026

/EINPresswire.com/ -- [A Better Bid](#), a Copart auction broker serving buyers in the United States and more than 40 countries, today released seven years of its own auction data showing that flood- and water-damaged vehicles sold for an average of \$9,543, or 44% above the platform-wide average of \$6,616.



The gap holds at the median as well, \$5,400 against \$3,850, so it is not the product of a few expensive outliers. The top 10% of flood-damaged lots sold above \$20,290. In the ten weeks after Hurricane Ian, the platform sold a flood-damaged 2018 Ferrari 488 Spider for \$183,000 and a 2019 Porsche 911 GT3 RS for \$119,000, both titled in Florida.

Part of the explanation is composition. Water damage often leaves a vehicle's underlying value intact where a collision would not, and premium makes are modestly overrepresented among flood-flagged listings, at 16.7% against 13.0% across the platform as a whole.

These vehicles do not arrive evenly. In the three months after Hurricane Ian, flood-flagged listings accounted for 65.5% of all Florida-titled lots on the platform, against 6.3% over the eight months before the storm. Two years later the pattern repeated: after Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton struck in 2024, flood-flagged listings made up 52.4% of Florida inventory over the following three months.

Neither increase arrived immediately. In both years, listings stayed flat for roughly a month after landfall, then rose sharply, peaking five to six weeks out. The lag reflects the mechanics of a

total-loss claim: a vehicle has to be inspected, the claim processed and the title rebranded before it reaches an auction listing.

That interval points to a predictable part of the calendar. Atlantic activity typically peaks between late August and early October, and both of the peaks in A Better Bid's records landed in November. Forecasters expect below-average activity in 2026, with Colorado State University's July update calling for nine named storms and one major hurricane, but the lag applies whenever a significant storm does make landfall.

The cars also do not stay in hurricane states. Florida and Texas account for most flood-flagged listings in the dataset, but California, New Jersey and New York each account for roughly 5%, none of them with direct hurricane exposure. Among flood-damaged vehicles shipped through A Better Bid, roughly one in six goes to an export destination and the rest stay in the United States.

For buyers, the practical consequence is a matter of timing. Anyone shopping the used market in November and December is shopping in the months when flood-damaged inventory has historically been highest, and title branding requirements vary by state. Running a VIN history check applies even to listings that appear clean.

METHODOLOGY: The analysis covers 44,866 vehicles processed through A Better Bid's brokerage between January 2019 and June 2026, of which 2,432 were flagged for flood or water damage as a primary or secondary damage type. Price figures are based on the 18,422 lots with a recorded winning price. The figures describe activity on A Better Bid's own platform rather than the U.S. salvage market as a whole, and the post-hurricane timing is drawn from two observed storm seasons.

ABOUT A BETTER BID: Founded in 2006 and based in North Miami Beach, Florida, A Better Bid is a Copart auction broker giving buyers in the United States and more than 40 countries access to salvage, repairable and clean-title vehicle auctions without requiring a dealer's license.

Learn more at abetter.bid.com.

A Better Bid Team
A Better Bid
+1 302-613-1026
info@abetterbid.com

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/930018853>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable

in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.
© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.