

Used Car Inspection Checklist



Car Information

Year/Make/Model/Trim level: _____

Mileage: _____ Options: _____

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN): _____

Seller's Contact info: _____

Car Value

Asking price: _____

Trade in value: _____

Market value: **KBB** | **eBay** | **Craigslist** | **Autotrader**

Body

NOTES

- Walk around - Does the vehicle sit straight and leveled? YES / NO
- Look for evidence of major damage - Chassis damage? Panel gap correct? YES / NO
- Check body for dents, nicks, signs of corrosion, and evidence of possible repair YES / NO
- Badges, emblems, moldings, stickers YES / NO
- ID Plaques, door jams, YES / NO
- Glass condition - does it have matching ID#? Is the windshield cracked? YES / NO
- Check underbody for frame damage and corrosion YES / NO
- All locks and release mechanisms work YES / NO
- Grill, roof rack, etc. all work correct and properly attached YES / NO

Under the Hood

Before starting the engine

- Does the hood open/close properly? Is the frame straight? Any bodywork? YES / NO
- Was the engine bay recently washed? YES / NO
- Are there any maintenance stickers? What are they for? YES / NO
- Do the battery terminals have signs of corrosion? YES / NO
- Fluid levels OK (oil, coolant, brake, clutch, transmission, windshield washer, etc.) YES / NO
- Does the oil cap have slush on the inside? YES / NO
- Do you see signs of leaks (oil, coolant, etc.) from the engine or transmission? YES / NO
- Do you see any damaged, worn out, or new parts? Take note of what they are. YES / NO

After starting and running the engine

- Did the engine start without issue? Does it idle normal? Any weird noises? YES / NO
- Does the engine emit an odor? YES / NO
- Do you see signs of leaks (oil, coolant, etc.)? YES / NO
- Do the exhaust pipes emit blue or black smoke? YES / NO

After test drive

- Do you see any smoke or smell of burning? YES / NO
- Does the oil cap have slush on the inside? YES / NO
- Check the coolant reservoir level. Is it the same? YES / NO

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Your Wheels, Brakes and Tires

	NOTES
Are the wheels OEM? Do they all match?	YES / NO
Any visible damage or missing parts (e.g. missing lugs nuts, center caps, etc.)?	YES / NO
Check brake pads and calipers if possible. Do they look good?	YES / NO
Check rubber and hard brake lines. Any cracks? Rust? Missing parts?	YES / NO
Do all 4 tires match? If not, does the tires on each axle match?	YES / NO
Does the steering wheel align with the tires?	YES / NO
Turn steering wheel all the way left/right to check tire condition inside.	YES / NO
How is the tread wear?	YES / NO
Are there any cracks on the tires?	YES / NO
Are the tires properly inflated and evenly worn?	YES / NO
What is the manufacturing week and year of the tires?	YES / NO
Check camber/toe angle	YES / NO
Check the spare tire, jack, and emergency roadside tools. Are they functional?	YES / NO

Interior

Check all seats. Any cracks, rips, tear, missing pieces, stains, smell?	YES / NO
Do all adjustments work properly? Can you move the seat all the way front/back?	YES / NO
Check the carpet for stains, tears, and any other damage or smell.	YES / NO
Check the headliner. Is it sagging? Any damage?	YES / NO
Check dashboard for cracks, missing or mismatched pieces, or repairs.	YES / NO

Vehicle options - Check every option on the vehicle

Key or keyless entry systems work as designed?	YES / NO
Do all windows roll up and down as designed? Sunroof/Moonroof?	YES / NO
Is the glass OK? Any window tint? If so, does it have bubbles? Is it legal?	YES / NO
Any curtains, shades, sun visors? Do they work?	YES / NO
Do the door locks operate as designed?	YES / NO
Turn ignition to ON. Ensure all lights work on the dash.	YES / NO
Turn car ON. Any lights on the dash?	YES / NO
Check Engine light ON?	YES / NO
Use OBDII scanner to check for codes or to see if codes were recently cleared.	YES / NO
Do turn signals, headlights, hazard lights, wipers, washers, indicators, etc. work?	YES / NO
Does the steering wheel adjust? Does the horn work? Airbag damaged?	YES / NO
Check the radio, temp controls, navigation, backup camera, parking sensors, etc.	YES / NO
Does the A/C and heat work?	YES / NO
Ensure safety equipment works (e.g. seat belts, hazard lights, e-brake, etc.)	YES / NO
Aftermarket equipment properly installed and functional?	YES / NO
Ensure all moving parts work (e.g. glovebox, cup holders, armrests, coin drawers)	YES / NO
Ensure driving equipment is secure (gas/brake pedal, shift knob, steering wheel)	YES / NO
Any other options work (e.g. adjustable suspension, spoilers, etc.)?	YES / NO

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Test Drive

Drive the vehicle for at least 10-20min on city and highway speeds

NOTES

Ensure all controls are reachable and mirrors and seats are comfortable for you. YES / NO

Stationary test

Does the vehicle engage in gear smoothly? Any noises? YES / NO

Turn steering wheel lock-to-lock. Are there any noises? Does it turn smooth? YES / NO

City driving test

Perform a U-Turn both ways (left/right). Does the vehicles turn OK? Any noises? YES / NO

Drive the vehicle in reverse. YES / NO

Does the vehicle DRIVE well under NORMAL acceleration? YES / NO

Simulate conditions - stop and go, going over bumps, slow turns, etc. YES / NO

Does the transmission shift smoothly? YES / NO

If manual transmission, does the clutch operate properly? Does it shift smoothly? YES / NO

Does the vehicle BRAKE well under NORMAL braking? YES / NO

Does it pull under braking? YES / NO

If equipped, does pedestrian safety equipment work properly? YES / NO

Highway driving test

Does the vehicle drive well at 55mph and above? Pulling? Shaking? Noises? YES / NO

Does the vehicle vibrate at any speed? YES / NO

Does the vehicle DRIVE well under HARD acceleration? YES / NO

Is the transmission shifting smooth? Does it slip when shifting? YES / NO

If manual, does the clutch engage properly? Does it slip? YES / NO

Simulate overtaking condition from cruising speeds. Does it perform well? YES / NO

Set Cruise Control. Does it work? YES / NO

If equipped, does highway safety equipment work (e.g. blind spot, lane departure)? YES / NO

Does the vehicle BRAKE well under HARD braking? Did ABS activate? YES / NO

Does it pull under braking? Any noises? YES / NO

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- Your rating:
- ★★★★★ This is the one
 - ★★★★☆ Top 5
 - ★★★☆☆ I'll think about it
 - ★★☆☆☆ Needs work
 - ★☆☆☆☆ No way