

Auto Parts Buying Checklist

Buy the right part the first time — genuine, OEM, aftermarket or used.

The wrong part wastes money and time, and a counterfeit can be unsafe. Before you buy, it helps to know your options and to confirm a few details. Here's how the main types compare.

Your options at a glance

Option	What it is	Pros	Best for
Genuine	The original part, made or branded by the vehicle manufacturer (OEM)	Exact fit, full warranty, best resale	Newer cars & critical parts
OEM-equivalent	Made by the same supplier that builds the manufacturer's part, sold unbranded	Same quality, lower cost than branded	Value without losing quality
Aftermarket	Made by a third party to fit many models; quality varies by brand	Wide choice, often cheaper	Older cars & non-critical parts
Used / salvage	A working part removed from another vehicle (ex-Japan or local)	Cheapest, fine for many items	Body panels, trim, hard-to-find parts

What to check before you buy

Confirm with the seller	Done	Notes
The part matches my exact car — checked against chassis / VIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I have the correct part number (from the old part or my logbook)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Packaging & markings look genuine — no signs of a counterfeit	<input type="checkbox"/>	
For used parts: condition checked / tested before payment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
There's a clear return and warranty policy if it doesn't fit or fails	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Confirmed compatible with my model, year and trim / engine	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I got the part number, price and warranty in writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Tip — avoid counterfeits. Fakes are common for filters, brake pads, spark plugs and electrical parts. Buy from a trusted seller, check holograms / batch codes, be wary of prices that look too good, and ask for the part number in writing. When in doubt, genuine or OEM-equivalent is the safer choice for brakes, steering and engine parts. This is a general guide, not professional advice.

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