

Pre-Purchase Inspection Checklist

Use this when viewing a used car. Tick ✓ for OK, ✗ if it needs attention, and note anything you'll want fixed or used to negotiate.

Vehicle: Make/model _____ Year _____ Reg. _____ Odometer (km) _____

Exterior & body

Check	OK	Issue	Notes
Panel gaps even; paint matches (signs of past repairs/accident)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rust, dents, scratches; windscreen chips or cracks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lights, indicators & mirrors all working and intact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tyres (incl. spare): tread depth even, no cracks; same size	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Interior

Check	OK	Issue	Notes
Seats, belts, trim; air conditioning blows cold	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
All electrics: windows, locks, wipers, radio, USB/Bluetooth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dashboard warning lights clear after starting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Odometer reading looks consistent with the car's wear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Under the bonnet & underneath

Check	OK	Issue	Notes
Oil & coolant levels clean; no obvious leaks under the car	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Battery terminals clean; belts/hoses not cracked	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Exhaust smoke normal (no blue/white smoke when revved)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No fresh undercoating hiding rust; chassis straight	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Road test

Check	OK	Issue	Notes
Starts easily; idles smoothly; pulls without hesitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Gears change smoothly (auto/manual); clutch not slipping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Brakes straight & firm; steering centred, no vibration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No unusual noises over bumps or on turns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Paperwork

Check	OK	Issue	Notes
Logbook matches the seller's ID; chassis & engine nos. match the car	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
No outstanding loan/lien; service records available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Insurance & inspection status checked	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Tip. For anything more than a quick look, pay a trusted mechanic to inspect before you buy – it's the cheapest insurance there is. This checklist is a general guide, not professional or legal advice.

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