



## How to Inspect a Used Car Checklist

### The Car Basics

#### Value of the Car:

Vin Number

Vin Check

Carfax/Auto check report

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<b>Year</b>	
<b>Make</b>	
<b>Model (any options?)</b>	
<b>Asking Price/Phone#</b>	

#### The Body:

<b>Scratches</b>	
<b>Dents</b>	
<b>Windshield (chips or cracks?)</b>	
<b>Headlights (foggy?)</b>	
<b>Inspection Sticker Current?</b>	
<b>Rusty Brake rotors?</b>	

#### The Wheels:

<b>Tire Tread</b>	
<b>All 4 tires/wheels the same?</b>	
<b>Wheel damage?</b>	

#### The Interior:

<b>Rips on seats</b>	
<b>Car Options (Navi, sunroof, etc)</b>	
<b>Headliner (saggy?)</b>	
<b>Automatic/Manual</b>	
<b>Steering wheel (worn?)</b>	

#### Under the Car:

<b>Leaks (near engine and rear diff)</b>	
<b>Rust (exhaust, frame, body, etc)</b>	
<b>Suspension (tie rods, ball joints, shocks, axle, etc)</b>	
<b>Frame Damage (from collision)</b>	

# How to Inspect a Used Car Checklist: **The Test Drive**

Questions to ask the Owner/dealer

Things to Bring: OBD2 Scanner, Magnet, Flashlight, Papertowel, Pen



How long have you owned the car or has it been on the lot?

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Why are you selling it?

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Does everything work/any problems?

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Any service records I can see, what have you done since owning the car or obtaining it?

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What did you use the car for?

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How many miles did you put on it when you owned it?

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**Engine (start cold, let warm up, go for ride)**

**Scan Engine with OBDII Scanner (P1000= codes cleared recently)**

**Before Start UP:**

Hood Pops open easy? Hood Support Struts work?	
Frame Straight-no kinks?	
Inspect for Leaks-Oil Coolant Tranny	
Oil level & Oil -no metal, not frothy? Oil Cap -no froth under cap	
Check Coolant (make sure it's <b>not hot</b> when you check)	
Clean vs. Dirty was the engine detailed	
Any Damage? New parts?	
Hoses, belts, battery post, wires, etc	

**Cold Start Up:**

Any strange noises/smoke? (ticking, grinding, etc)	
Does the motor move a lot (bad motor mounts)	
Idle (does the idle drop and smooth out)	
Does it take too long to start?	
Check under oil cap (strong pulses/smoke)	
Check exhaust for smoke upon startup	

**Warm Start Up:**

Any strange noises/smoke? (ticking, grinding, etc)	
Check under oil cap (strong pulses/smoke/froth)	
Bubbling in radiator reservoir? (blown headgasket)	
Does it take too long to start?	
Idle (does the idle drop and smooth out)	
Check exhaust for smoke upon startup	

**Trunk:**

Spare (holds air, not rusty)	
Spare tire carrier round (no indents)	
Water marks, damp carpet?	
Jack with lug wrench	
Lug nut key (locking lug-nuts)	

**Interior:**

Seats-Front &amp; Rear:

Damage, rips, tares, stains, smell	
Adjust properly (forward, back, tilt)	
Solid/not lose	

**Carpet-Front, Rear, Trunk:**

Check Under Carpets (rust, water)	
Stains, holes, cuts, smell, dampness	
Floor mats?	
Headliner-interior roof-water damage, burns, stains-sagging?	
Wear & Tear: Seats, Carpet, Steering Wheel, Brake-Gas Pedal	

**Vehicle Options:**

Power Windows (roll up/down, scratches)	
Power Mirrors (heat and movement)	
Radio (am/fm/clock set right, speakers work)	
Navigation (make sure it locates)	
Rear View Mirror (auto-dim)	
Lights (glove box, map, dashboard, etc)	
Heated Seats	
Check for Owner's Manual	
Window tint (bubbles, legal)	
Power Locks (all doors lock/unlock)	
AC/Heat-all settings	
Sunroof -open close leaks?	
Parking Sensors (beep in reverse)	
Emergency Brake Holds car in Neutral	
Wipers, washer fluid work	
All Gauges Work	

**Exterior Lights:**

High/Low Beams	
Front Fog Lights	
Brake Running Lights	
Rear Turn Signals	
Front Running Lights	
Front Turn Signals	
Pressed Brake Lights (3 <sup>rd</sup> brake light)	
Rear Fog Lights	

**Tires:**

Turn lock to lock	
Inspect camber/toe angle	
Inspect tread-wear	

**Bodywork:**

Panel Gaps	
Bondo (magnet and tapping methods)	
Paint Seams on edge of panels	

**Test Drive: City & Highway**

<b>Acceleration Test: smooth, no knocks or hesitation,</b>			
Regular Acceleration	Hard Acceleration		

**Turning Test:**

Stationary- turn lock to lock (noise/feel)	
Turn back and forth in motion to sway car (controlled, squeaks, knocks)	
Moving- turn 360 (noise/feel both ways)	
Hard turn while moving (controlled, squeaks, knocks)	

**Brake Test: smooth, no pulls, no noises, no vibrations**

Regular Braking	
ABS Light on dash?	
Hard Braking (try to activate abs)	
Noise/pulling?	

**Highway: stop & go bumps, turns, slow**

RPM (top gear/overdrive)	
Noises (thuds, squeaks, whines)	
Cruise Control	
Smooth/controlled/comfortable/solid	
Downshift at cruising speed	

**City: stop & go bumps, turns, slow**

Noises (thuds, squeaks, whines)	
Does the car feel good to drive?	
Vibrations	
Shifting (smooth, crisp, no slipping)	

**Scan Engine Test if Available after Drive**

W2W

W2W