



# Used Vehicle Inspection Checklist

## External



- Identify/photograph body damage, rust, dents, scrapes
- Assess paint for flakes and dullness indicative of sun or water damage
- Roof - look for scrapes, rust, and holes (i.e., from removed roof racks)
- Undercarriage - look from all four sides. Check for scrapes, dents, and rust
- Tires - look for uneven wear, mismatched brands/ages, check tread depth, ask to see the spare tire and jack
- Wheel well - look for rust

## Internal



- Floor: Look for rust and holes (look underneath any covering if possible)
- Windows: Move every window up and down. Examine for cracks.
- Seats: Make sure all move/adjust correctly, inspect for tears and wear in the upholstery.
- Check operation: Locks, sound system, AC, Heater
- Check the dash panel lights while turning on the engine. Make sure the check engine, oil, and other lights cycle on, then off.
- Confirm the wipers and cleaner fluid pump work
- Check the miles on the odometer

## Engine



- Is it clean?
- Look for any unattached tubes or wires.
- Does the battery look old or new? Does the seller know its age?
- Check fluid levels: Oil, Transmission, Brake, Power Steering, Wiper, and Coolant

## Test Drive

- Watch from outside as the seller cycles through all the headlights, tail lights, hazards, and turn signals
- Move the vehicle away from its parking spot and look at the ground. Photograph any wet areas that could indicate fluid leaks.
- Keep the radio off so you can hear any unexpected engine, gear, and brake sounds.
- Feel the vehicle go through gear shifts. Are there jerks, movements, or sounds?
- Drive on local and highway.
- Assess acceleration and braking.



Always supplement your self-inspection with one performed by a certified mechanic

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