



Buying a used car checklist

Buying a used car is a great way to save money. It's important, though, to carefully inspect the vehicle to ensure you won't have to pay for expensive repairs anytime soon.

Use this checklist to select a used car that is still in good shape:

- Check under the vehicle for leaks.
- Use a magnet to ensure all the body panels are made with steel.
- Look for signs of rust.
- The trunk, hood, and doors should be properly aligned.
- There are no scratches or dents.
- The headlights, windshield wipers, and turn signal work.
- The tires are evenly worn, have no cracks, and are all made by the same manufacturer.
- The disc brake rotors have no signs of damage.
- There is no corrosion on the battery terminals.
- There is no odor when the engine is running and the exhaust emission isn't black or blue.
- Check the oil dipstick to ensure the oil isn't dark or thick.
- Check for signs of leaks on the engine.

- Test the doors, trunk, power windows, and sunroof.
- The gauges, heat, AC, and radio should work.
- All the seats should have seat belts and show no signs of damage.
- Lift the carpet or pads to look for damage or rust.
- The chassis shouldn't be bent or damaged.
- The transmission fluid should be clear and the transmission shouldn't slip or make noises.
- There is no odor in the car.
- Test drive the car and go above 60 mph to ensure it doesn't shake, vibrate, make noises, or drift to one side even when you don't steer.
- Ask for the car manual, maintenance record, and car title.

Click [HERE](#) to check the history of your selected car and find out:

- How many people had owned the car before you intent to buy it
- If the car is subject to any type of fraud such as odometer rollback
- Valuable information about recalls and accidents, theft records
- If the car is associated with a clean title (many used car unfortunately have salvage or rebuilt titles, there's also the possibility that the car has lien on it)

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