

Used Car Inspection Checklist: Buyer Walkthrough

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Vehicle and seller

INSPECTION DATE

INSPECTOR NAME

SELLER NAME

SELLER TYPE

LISTING LOCATION

YEAR

MAKE

MODEL

TRIM / BODY STYLE

VIN

LICENSE PLATE

STOCK OR LISTING NUMBER

ASKING PRICE (USD)

ODOMETER MILES

SELLER CONTACT

☐ Seller will allow an independent shop inspection before purchase (FTC / AAA).

Body and rust				
Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Panel gaps and alignment	☐	☐	☐	
Paint match and overspray	☐	☐	☐	
Dents, dings, and scratches	☐	☐	☐	
Blistered paint and bubbling rust	☐	☐	☐	
Wheel wells and fender liners	☐	☐	☐	
Rocker panels and sills	☐	☐	☐	
Undercarriage rust	☐	☐	☐	
Visible frame or unibody rails	☐	☐	☐	
Hood, doors, and trunk operation	☐	☐	☐	
Bumpers and covers	☐	☐	☐	
Flood silt, mud, and waterlines	☐	☐	☐	
Trunk, spare well, and cargo floor	☐	☐	☐	

Glass and wipers				
Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes

Windshield	☐	☐	☐	_____
Side glass	☐	☐	☐	_____
Rear glass and defroster grid	☐	☐	☐	_____
Interior and exterior mirrors	☐	☐	☐	_____
Wiper arms and blades	☐	☐	☐	_____
Windshield washers	☐	☐	☐	_____
Sunroof or panoramic glass	☐	☐	☐	_____
View obstructions	☐	☐	☐	_____

Tires and brakes

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Tread depth (all four)	☐	☐	☐	_____
Uneven tread wear	☐	☐	☐	_____
Size and construction match	☐	☐	☐	_____
Sidewall and carcass damage	☐	☐	☐	_____
Inflation vs door placard	☐	☐	☐	_____
DOT date code	☐	☐	☐	_____
Spare and TPMS lamp	☐	☐	☐	_____
Wheels and lug nuts	☐	☐	☐	_____
Wheel and suspension play	☐	☐	☐	_____
Brake warning lamp	☐	☐	☐	_____
Brake pedal reserve and hold	☐	☐	☐	_____
Visible rotors and pads	☐	☐	☐	_____
Visible brake hoses and lines	☐	☐	☐	_____
Parking brake	☐	☐	☐	_____

Engine and leaks

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Start and idle (bay)	☐	☐	☐	_____
Engine oil level and condition	☐	☐	☐	_____
Coolant level and appearance	☐	☐	☐	_____
Brake fluid reservoir	☐	☐	☐	_____
Power steering fluid (if hydraulic)	☐	☐	☐	_____

Coolant and vacuum hoses	☐	☐	☐	_____
Drive belts and tensioner	☐	☐	☐	_____
Under-hood leaks	☐	☐	☐	_____
Puddles on the ground	☐	☐	☐	_____
Battery, cables, and hold-down	☐	☐	☐	_____
Exhaust leaks and hangers	☐	☐	☐	_____
Engine-related warning lamps	☐	☐	☐	_____

Transmission

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Transmission fluid (if accessible)	☐	☐	☐	_____
Transmission case and cooler lines	☐	☐	☐	_____
CV boots, axles, and drive shafts	☐	☐	☐	_____
Powertrain mounts (visible)	☐	☐	☐	_____
Park and reverse engagement	☐	☐	☐	_____
Clutch and shifter (manual)	☐	☐	☐	_____
4WD / AWD (if equipped)	☐	☐	☐	_____
Transmission warning lamp	☐	☐	☐	_____

Electronics

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Dash lamp bulb-check	☐	☐	☐	_____
Check-engine lamp	☐	☐	☐	_____
ABS, airbag, and brake lamps	☐	☐	☐	_____
Headlamps (low and high)	☐	☐	☐	_____
Tail, brake, turn, and hazard lamps	☐	☐	☐	_____
Horn	☐	☐	☐	_____
Power windows and locks	☐	☐	☐	_____
Seat adjustment and heaters	☐	☐	☐	_____
Heat, A/C, and blower	☐	☐	☐	_____
Radio / infotainment and camera	☐	☐	☐	_____
Interior lamps and power ports	☐	☐	☐	_____
Gauges and odometer display	☐	☐	☐	_____

Test drive

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Launch and idle in drive	☐	☐	☐	_____
Acceleration	☐	☐	☐	_____
Transmission shift quality	☐	☐	☐	_____
Steering and tracking	☐	☐	☐	_____
Brake pull, noise, and delay	☐	☐	☐	_____
Service brake stop feel	☐	☐	☐	_____
Ride over bumps	☐	☐	☐	_____
Vibration or shimmy	☐	☐	☐	_____
Highway or higher-speed run	☐	☐	☐	_____
Parking brake on a grade	☐	☐	☐	_____
Driveline noises	☐	☐	☐	_____
Pedal, wheel, and seat wear vs miles	☐	☐	☐	_____

Paperwork

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Title in the seller's name	☐	☐	☐	_____
Title brand (salvage, flood, rebuilt)	☐	☐	☐	_____
VIN match (title, dash, door)	☐	☐	☐	_____
Odometer vs title disclosure	☐	☐	☐	_____
Odometer disclosure still required?	☐	☐	☐	_____
Service records vs miles	☐	☐	☐	_____
Vehicle history report	☐	☐	☐	_____
NMVTIS title history	☐	☐	☐	_____
Open safety recalls	☐	☐	☐	_____
Airbag deployment or salvage airbags	☐	☐	☐	_____
FTC Buyers Guide (dealers)	☐	☐	☐	_____
As-is vs warranty terms	☐	☐	☐	_____
Lien, keys, and manuals	☐	☐	☐	_____
Independent inspection still needed	☐	☐	☐	_____

Defects and sign-off

DEFECTS FOUND

RECOMMENDATION

INSPECTOR NOTES

INSPECTOR SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED

☐ Independent shop PPI completed (or scheduled) before money changes hands.

Reference only. Verify against the vehicle OEM procedure and applicable regulations.