



iSeeCars.com's Used Car Inspection Checklist

Bring this along when shopping for a used car

✓ Check out the car history report:

Record the vehicle VIN:	
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✓ Check the condition of the used vehicle's body

	Yes	No
Are the gaps around the doors even?		
Are there signs of rust (particularly above the tires)?		
Is the color mismatched in any place?		

Tip: Use a magnet to see if the body is actual metal or Bondo, which is often used in vehicle restoration.

✓ Check the tires:

	Yes	No
Are they worn?		
Are there any cracks?		

What brand are they:	
What condition are the rims:	

✓ Check the engine:

Make sure the engine is off (and has been for a while).

	Yes	No
Is the engine relatively clean?		
Are there any signs of rust?		
Pop off the oil filler cap. Are there any thick black deposits? <i>(This isn't a good sign.)</i>		

✓ Check the engine's oil:

Make sure the car is still off. Pull out the dipstick, wipe it as clean as you can with a paper towel, insert the dipstick back into the engine, and pull it out again. There should be "full" and "low" indicators.

How high is the current level of oil?
Is it a pale amber color (good) or a dark, sludgy color (bad)?

✓ Check the automatic transmission fluid:

Make sure the car is level, the transmission is in park, and the parking break is on. Turn on the car's engine. After it idles for a time, pull out the transmission dipstick and wipe it with a paper towel. Place it back and pull it out again. If the car had just been turned on, the fluid should be in between the "cold" indicators. (If it had been driven for a time directly prior to this check, expect it to be within the "hot" indicators.) It should also be a clear reddish color. A brown, sludgy color means it has not been maintained.

✓ Check the brake fluid level:

Yes No

Is it low? (If so it could be leaking and/or brake pads wearing).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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✓ Check the engine coolant:

Yes No

It should be relatively low. Is it?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It should be yellowish-green in color. Is it?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

✓ Do an under-hood check with a flashlight and mirror: Yes No

Does the fan belt look worn?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is anything rusty or leaking?*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*The AC condenser may be leaking slightly if it was just used - this is normal.

✓ Check the interior. What is the condition of:

Seatbelts:
Seats:
Flooring:
Steering wheel, knobs, etc:

✓ Test the electrical features. What is the condition of:

Lights:
Power seats/windows:
Audio System:
AC/Heater:

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