



# USED CAR TEST DRIVE CHECKLIST



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## PARKING LOT

OK REASON FOR CONCERN

 

### Start it up

Does it start immediately? A hesitant start-up could indicate a loose battery connection or solenoid or issues with spark plugs or fuel delivery. It might not be a deal-breaker, but it could be a negotiating factor

 

### Turn the radio of

It's important to be able to hear any inconsistencies or unusual sounds like grinding, squealing, or clunking. Squealing is typically a worn belt, while grinding sounds could indicate serious issues.

 

### Safely remove your hands from the steering wheel while driving.

There are alignment issues if the car pulls to the left or right, which could indicate unevenly worn tires.

 

### Full Turn Test

Turn the wheel all the way to the left then all the way to the right. Joints that need to be fixed will click or grind. Difficulty turning the wheel is usually a power steering concern. These are costly repairs and should not be overlooked.

 

### Test the brakes.

They should be responsive without a grinding or squeaking sound, which could indicate worn pads or rotors. Vibration while braking is usually a sign of warped rotors.

## ROAD

 

### Test the brakes at different speeds

Check again to ensure that the brakes are working properly.

 

### Feel for vibrating

A vibrating steering wheel while driving typically indicates unevenly worn tires.

 

### Drive over minor bumps or potholes

If the car bounces excessively the suspension or chassis may need to be repaired.

## HIGHWAY

 

### Drive over 55mph

It's important to check for unusual sounds or alignment issues that may only present themselves at higher speeds.

 

### Feel for Vibrating

Vibration at higher speeds usually indicates suspension problems, but it could be unevenly worn tires. A physical inspection of the tires could help make an accurate diagnosis.

 

### Test the Cruise Control

Set the cruise control to ensure that it works properly.

## VEHICLE INFORMATION

Car make : .....

Car model : .....

Car year : .....

Mileage : .....

VIN : .....



## NEXT STEPS

**Request Maintenance Records**

**Have an Independent Mechanic Conduct an Inspection**



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