

Car Buying Checklist

This tip sheet was designed by Corinna Wijnen

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Used Car Checklist	CAR Year.....	
	KMs Manufacturer.....	
Other Features		
Rego: \$	Due:	
Engine No:		Certificate of Registration match
VIN No:		Check interference? Scratches, grind marks, drill holes
Year & month of manufacture:		[see panel in engine bay]
Service history:		Stamped at correct km/all services completed
Any accidents:		Check if loose panels
Any rust:		Look inside boot, floor wells, doors & lower sills, vinyl roof may conceal rust/other damage
Any hail damage:		Look at bonnet, roof, boot lid - if any, check insurance co
Driven over rough roads:		Check if loose panels
Seals perishing:		Check doors & boot lid/tailgate: catches should close
		Check rubber seals
Paint		Check colour variation - overspraying/dents/ripples
Engine appearance:		Any dirt? Or oil build-up? = poor maintenance/mechanical problems
Engine oil:		Dirty or thick? Sludge in engine = lack of maintenance grey or milky coloured oil = presence of water serious engine problems
Engine at idle:		Any knocking/rattling noises? Irregular running?

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Exhaust System:		Fumes? Or excessive noise = holes or rust in pipes/mufflers
Oil fumes:		Remove oil filler cap while engine idling. Fumes = worn piston rings/cylinder
Radiator coolant:		Should be clean & brightly coloured. Oil in coolant = cracked cylinder head or a leaking gasket.
		Check for corrosion or damage on radiator cooler fins and core tubes
Battery & mounting platform/bracket:		Check for acid corrosion
Tyres:		Check if uneven wear = worn or misaligned steering or suspension
Check for Oil Leaks:		Engine? Transmission? Axles? Brakes? Power Steering? Shock absorbers? Bonnet?
Seat belts:		Check if frayed/damaged? Belts, buckles, adjusters & child restraint anchor points in good condition?
Lights:		Check all lights outside?
		Check all lights inside?
If ABS & / or SRS air bags:		Check dashboard warning light/s illuminate for short time when ignition is on
Equipment/accessories:		Check air conditioner Ventilation fan Electric windows Sound system. If inoperative is it expensive to repair/replace
Jack & Toolkit		See if in place & in serviceable condition
Upholstery, Trim & carpets?		Check for any wear & tear everywhere
Tank capacity; frequency..L per week/10days/fortnight = kms on full tank	
Insurance \$..... Stamp Duty \$..... Petrol \$..... NRMA service cost \$.....Maint \$		
carsales.com.au	drive.com.au	mynrma.com.au