

Used Car CHECKLIST

If your used car buying skills amount to, "Meh, looks good to me," then it's time to step it up!
Check most of these boxes, and you might have a winner.

PAPERWORK

- Does the car have a clean title?
- Does the owner have maintenance records?

SPOT CHECK

EXTERIOR

- Do the hood, trunk and all the doors open and close properly?
- Is the exterior free of scratches, dents, rust and paint chippings?
- Are the windshield wipers undamaged?
- Is the windshield free of cracks?
- Are all the tires the same size, brand and have all their lug nuts?
- Does the tire tread still have some depth?

INTERIOR

- Does the inside smell clean, as opposed to moldy?
- Are the seats, floor and trunk free of mildew?
- Do all the electronics (radio, power door locks, windshield wipers, power windows) work?
- Do the air conditioner and heater work?
- Start the car. Do all the dashboard warning lights turn off?

ON THE ROAD

DRIVING

- Does the car handle speed bumps smoothly?
- Does the engine accelerate smoothly and without odd noises?
- Are you comfortable seeing out of the car and checking your blind spots?
- Does the steering wheel turn smoothly?

BRAKING

- Does the brake pedal feel firm, as opposed to squishy?
- Does the emergency brake work?
- Are the brakes free of grinding noises?

UNDER THE HOOD

ENGINE OFF

- Is the oil clean and not dark, sludgy or milky?
- Are the fluid levels (power steering, brake, coolant) above the minimum?
- Does the transmission fluid smell clean, as opposed to burnt?
- Is the vehicle clear of any sign of fluid leaks?
- Is the battery newer than three years?
- Are the battery terminals free of corrosion?
- Is the air filter clean and not excessively dirty?
- Are the hoses in good condition, as opposed to brittle, cracked or rock-hard?

ENGINE ON

- Does the engine sound smooth with no knocks, ticks or other strange noises?
- Does the engine reach a consistent idle within a minute or two?
- Is the engine clear of suspicious smells, like burning oil?
- Do the radiator fans start after the engine is warm?
- Do the belts sound smooth and not squeaky?
- Do the headlights, taillights, high beams and turn signals work?

Do you Have CAR INSURANCE?

If that used car you're inspecting is worth the cash, the next step is to get it insured. Don't rush this step! Most people are paying too much for coverage because they picked the wrong insurance company. **Shop with an independent agent.** Trust us, you'll save more in the long run!