

PRE-PURCHASE INSPECTION CHECK LIST

OVERVIEW

01 Research

02 Contact

03 Exterior Visual Inspection

04 Interior Visual Inspection

05 Ride-Along as Passenger

06 Test Drive

07 Mechanic Test Drive

08 Mechanic Inspection

09 Mechanic Computer Test

10 Mechanic Compression

Exterior

- Windshield free of cracks
- Body panel colors match
- Paint Depth Gauge consistency
- Rust in seams
- Seams where the trunk and hood close are properly aligned
- Seams where doors and fenders meet are properly aligned
- Weather stripping in good shape
- Free of body scratches and chips
- Free of body dents or panel "waviness"
- Rims scuffed or dented
- Shallow tire-tread depth or uneven wearing
- Spare tire, jack and lugnut wrench present and functional

Engine

- Free of fluid or oil leaks
- Oil filler neck not coated with gummy, black deposits
- Battery terminals free of corrosion
- Oil dip stick free of dark, black oil
- Free of odors while engine is running
- Exhaust pipe emissions are neither blue (indicates engine burns oil) or black

Notes

Interior

- Seats unworn and free of cracks
- Trunk opens and closes smoothly
- Doors open and close smoothly
- Heavy scent of air freshener (may indicate something is being concealed)
- All gauges, button, and knobs work
- No dashboard warning lights remain illuminated
- Stereo works
- Heater works
- Air conditioner functional
- Windshield wipers work
- Windshield wiper fluid dispenses properly
- All seats equipped with functional seat belts
- All seats adjust properly
- Power windows operate properly
- Trunk and driver-side door lock and unlock with key
- Hazard lights function properly
- Dashboard free of cracks of touch up paint
- Headliner intact and sun visor functional

Brakes & Steering

- Car steers straight and does not pull when brakes applied
- Brakes do not feel "squishy"
- Emergency brake functional
- Steering wheel does not vibrate while driving
- No clicking noises while turning

Other

- Service and repair records available
- Owner has legal ownership (Title)
- Car manual
- Manual for upgraded radio/equipment etc

Recommended Tools

Notebook for recording the vehicle ID, mileage and various issues to discuss at a later time

Rag for checking fluids

Rubber gloves

Small flash light

Paint Depth Gauge (if possible)

