

Second-hand vehicle checklist

Vehicle History

- HPI check the vehicle online or through a dealership
- How many previous owners?
- Does the vehicle have a full service history with a stamped service book and complete log of receipts?
- Has it recently been MOT'd?
- Check previous MOTs online and check any advisory work has been done
- Is the vehicle due a service?
- Check that the VIN number on the V5C document match those on the vehicle
- Look online for any common issues with that particular make and model - what do other people say?

Exterior

- Are there any defects or scratches, or colour differences in the bodywork?
- Look at the reflections on the body panels - do they align from panel to panel?
- Is there any trace of paint on the glass or trim indicating a respray?
- Look for any signs of rust on the vehicle, particularly the wheel arches and door sills - this can be costly to fix
- Are the alloys badly scuffed?
- Are all the tyres worn evenly, and do they all have the same tread pattern? Will they need replacing soon?

Under the bonnet

- Are there any signs of leaks around the engine under the bonnet, or on the ground underneath?
- Does the engine make any strange noises when started from cold?
- Are all the pipes and hoses in good condition, or brittle and worn?

Interior

- When you start the vehicle, do any of the warning lights on the dashboard stay on?
- Do all the controls and lights work properly?
- Does the radio and air conditioning work?
- Do all the locks and remote central locking work?
- Does the alarm work as expected?
- Do all the windows work correctly?

Safety

- Check the oil and water levels on the vehicle are within the recommended range
- Check the tyre pressure and tread for any signs of uneven wear
- Are all the car tools present such as jack and wheel nut wrench, and is the spare tyre inflated?
- Does the handbrake work as you would expect?

Test Drive

- Is the positioning comfortable for you to drive? Can you get in and out easily?
- Start the vehicle from cold with the bonnet open - are there any unusual noises?
- Wind down the windows and listen whilst driving
- Does the vehicle pull to one side when driving or breaking?
- Is the steering wheel central when driving in a straight line?