



# Used Car Inspection Checklist

Physical inspection to conduct before test driving a vehicle



iSeeCars

## OK REASON FOR CONCERN

- | OK                       | REASON FOR CONCERN   |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>1. VIN VERIFICATION:</b> Locate the car's VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) plate, which should be visible when looking at the driver's side of the dash from outside, near the base of the windshield. Confirm this number matches the car's title and registration. <i>RED FLAG: There is no VIN plate, or the number doesn't match the car's title.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>2. RUST:</b> Check for rust or signs of rust that have been covered, especially the wheel wells and under the car. <i>RED FLAG: Significant rust on parts.</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>3. TIRES:</b> Do the tires need to be replaced? Stick a penny in the tread of the tire with Lincoln's head face-down. If the top of his head is visible, the tires need to be replaced. <i>RED FLAG: Cracks or bulges in the tires.</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>4. FLUID LEAKS:</b> Notice any leaking fluids? Check the ground under the car, ideally after it's been parked for over an hour. Check under the hood for any splattered fluids or fluid stains. <i>RED FLAG: Engine or transmission leaks.</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>5. BODY:</b> Inspect the gap between body panels, including doors, hood, fenders, and trunk, they should be even and aligned. <i>RED FLAG: Owner isn't honest about past accidents or repair work.</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>6. BELTS/HOSES:</b> Belts and hoses should have a consistent finish and feel supple to the touch (use gloves when touching hot hoses). Look for cracks, a hard, brittle feel, or other signs of wear. Squeeze them and look for signs of deterioration.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>7. OIL:</b> Remove the dipstick, wipe it clean, then insert it again before inspecting the oil. It should never be foamy, and while a darker shade is okay a lighter tan/gold or clear color is better. <i>RED FLAG: Black or gritty oil.</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>8. TRANSMISSION FLUID:</b> Transmission fluid should be red or pinkish, never black. Be sure to smell the fluid too. <i>RED FLAG: Fluid that smells burnt.</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>9. COOLANT:</b> <i>*BEFORE REMOVING THE COOLANT CAP MAKE SURE THE ENGINE IS COOL.</i> The coolant should be visible when the cap is removed, it is typically green, never brown.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>10. POWER COMPONENTS:</b> Test power windows, seats, and locks. They should operate smoothly.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>11. INTERIOR:</b> If it smells moist or like mildew there could be water damage or leaks. Is the headliner drooping? Torn or ripped upholstery can affect the value. The seatbelts must operate smoothly.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>12. GLASS:</b> Inspect the windshield for cracks, stone chips, or excessive pitting. Look for cracks in side and rear windows.   |

## Vehicle Information

Car Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Car Make: \_\_\_\_\_

Car Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Mileage: \_\_\_\_\_

VIN: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

---



---



---



---



---



---

## What To Bring



Gloves



Rag



Flashlight



Penny

## Next Steps

- ✓ Check iSeeCars VIN Report [www.iseecars.com/vin](http://www.iseecars.com/vin)
- ✓ Request maintenance records
- ✓ Test drive the vehicle ([See checklist](#))
- ✓ Have an independent mechanic conduct an inspection



Use iSeeCars to find a GREAT deal on a GREAT car. Visit [iSeeCars.com](http://iSeeCars.com) or download the free app.