

# ✓ USED CAR INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Physical Inspection to Conduct Before Test Driving a Vehicle.



OK	REASON FOR CONCERN
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. **RUST** Check for rust or signs of rust that has been covered, especially the wheel wells and under the car.  
*RED FLAG: Significant Rust on Parts (not body)*

2. **TIRES** 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 tread is too low.  
*RED FLAG: Cracks or Bulges in the Tires*

3. **FLUID LEAKS** 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 on parts. *RED FLAG: Engine Leaks or Transmission Leaks*

4. **BODY** Inspect the contours of the car, specifically where parts meet, like doors and the hood/trunk, they should be even and aligned. *RED FLAG: Owner isn't Honest about Repair Work*

5. **BELTS/HOSES** Belts and Hoses should never be rock hard or brittle. Squeeze them and look for signs of residue from deterioration.

6. **OIL** Remove the dipstick, wipe it clean, then insert it again before inspecting the oil. It should never be grey, black, or foamy. *RED FLAG: Black or Gritty Oil*

7. **TRANSMISSION FLUID** Transmission fluid should be red or pinkish, never black. Be sure to smell the fluid too.  
*RED FLAG: Fluid that Smells Burnt*

8. **COOLANT** \*BEFORE REMOVING THE COOLANT CAP MAKE SURE THE ENGINE IS COOL. The coolant should be visible when the cap is removed, it is typically green, never brown.

9. **POWER COMPONENTS** Test power windows, seats, and locks. They should operate smoothly.

10. **INTERIOR** If it smells moist or like mildew there could be water damage or leaks. Is the ceiling liner drooping? Torn or ripped upholstery can affect the value. The seatbelts must operate correctly.

11. **AC/HEAT** Test the heat and the air conditioning. It may take a few minutes to heat up or cool down.  
*RED FLAG: A/C that doesn't Work*

Vehicle Information:

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

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

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

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

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

What to Bring:



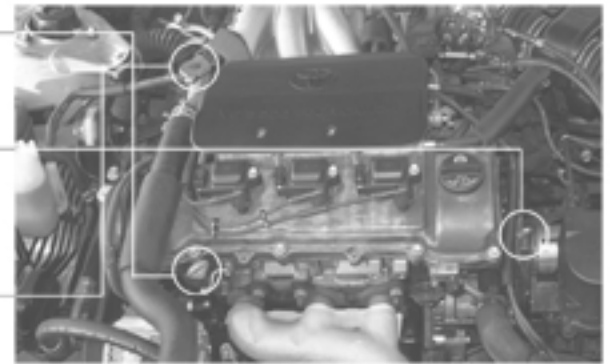
Flashlight



Rag



Penny



Next Steps:

- **CHECK iSeeCars VIN REPORT**  
[www.iseecars.com/vin](http://www.iseecars.com/vin)
- **REQUEST MAINTENANCE RECORDS**
- **TEST DRIVE THE VEHICLE**
- **HAVE AN INDEPENDENT MECHANIC CONDUCT AN INSPECTION**



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