

Used Car Buying Checklist

- ☐ Research the car's market value.
- ☐ Check the car's history report (e.g., Carfax, AutoCheck).
- ☐ Arrange financing if needed.
- ☐ Prepare a list of questions to ask the seller.
- ☐ Verify the seller's identity and ownership documents.
- ☐ Ask about the car's history, including accidents, repairs, and maintenance.
- ☐ Check for a clear title (no liens).
- ☐ Confirm the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) matches the title and history report.
- ☐ Check for rust, dents, and scratches.
- ☐ Inspect the paint quality and consistency.
- ☐ Check for signs of accident damage (e.g., misaligned panels).
- ☐ Inspect the tires for tread wear and condition.
- ☐ Check the condition of the seats, dashboard, and upholstery.
- ☐ Check the diagnostics with a plug-in tool.
([FIXD Bluetooth OBD2 Scanner](#) or [IF745 OBD2 Scanner Diagnostic Tool](#))
- ☐ Test all electronics (radio, lights, windows, locks, etc.).
- ☐ Test battery and alternator condition.
([CARTMAN 12V Car Battery Alternator Tester](#) or [TOPDON BT600 12V Tester](#))
- ☐ Ensure the air conditioning and heating work properly.
- ☐ Check for any unusual odors (e.g., mold, smoke).

- ☐ Check the oil level and condition.
- ☐ Inspect the coolant and brake fluid levels.
- ☐ Look for any leaks or corrosion.
- ☐ Check the condition of belts and hoses.
- ☐ Inspect for rust or damage to the frame.
- ☐ Check for any fluid leaks.
- ☐ Examine the exhaust system.
- ☐ Start the car and listen for unusual noises.
- ☐ Test the brakes and steering for responsiveness.
- ☐ Drive at different speeds and on various road types.
- ☐ Check for smooth gear shifting and acceleration.
- ☐ Review the car's service records.
- ☐ Negotiate the price based on your findings.
- ☐ Get a pre-purchase inspection from a trusted mechanic.
- ☐ Finalize the purchase and complete the necessary paperwork (bill of sale, title transfer).

I recommend Scotty Kilmer's book [Everyone's Guide to Buying a Used Car and Car Maintenance](#).

Also, don't forget to check out the possibility of buying a cheap car at an auction. [Check out this website](#).