Used-Car Inspection Checklist

BEFORE YOU BUY

Use this quick scan at the viewing. Tap a box to mark what you verified, then tap a colored heading for details and notes.

1. BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

- [ ] VIN and identity
- [ ] Title and liens
- [ ] History report
- [ ] Open recalls
- [ ] Service records
- [ ] Dealer Buyers Guide

2. WALK AROUND IN DAYLIGHT

- [ ] Body panels and paint
- [ ] Glass and lights
- [ ] Tires and wheels
- [ ] Under the car
- [ ] Doors and cargo area

3. ENGINE BAY AND COLD START

- [ ] Evidence of a cold engine
- [ ] Leaks and smells
- [ ] Fluid levels and condition
- [ ] Belts, hoses, battery
- [ ] Start and idle
- [ ] Warning lights

ROADWISE

QUICK CHECKLIST

Continue the inspection

Tap a colored section to read its detailed page.

4. SIT IN EVERY SEAT

- [ ] Seat belts and airbags
- [ ] A/C, heat, and defroster
- [ ] Windows, locks, mirrors
- [ ] Displays and cameras
- [ ] Water and odors

5. TEST DRIVE SAFELY

- [ ] Steering and tracking
- [ ] Braking
- [ ] Acceleration and shifting
- [ ] Ride and noises
- [ ] Temperature and lights
- [ ] Parking and restart

6. PROTECT THE PURCHASE

- [ ] Independent inspection
- [ ] Insurance and registration
- [ ] Real total cost
- [ ] Written terms
- [ ] Walk-away decision

STOP AND VERIFY

Mismatched VIN or title, unsafe brakes, overheating, warning lights, or refusal of an independent inspection are reasons to pause.