

USED CAR BUYING CHECKLIST

25 smart questions to ask before you buy | Complete Automotive

Bring this page with you. Check each item as you verify it.

HISTORY & PAPERWORK

- ☐ Why is the vehicle being sold?
- ☐ Has it ever been in an accident or had flood damage?
- ☐ Is the title clean, and does the VIN match?
- ☐ Can I review maintenance and repair records?
- ☐ How many owners has it had?
- ☐ Are there any known mechanical problems?
- ☐ Have any warning lights been on recently?

ENGINE & DRIVABILITY

- ☐ Has the engine ever overheated?
- ☐ Does the transmission shift smoothly?
- ☐ When were the brakes last serviced?
- ☐ How old are the tires; is wear even?
- ☐ Any steering or suspension problems?
- ☐ Do the A/C, heater and defroster work?
- ☐ Are there any fluid leaks?
- ☐ Is timing belt service due (if equipped)?

SAFETY & TEST DRIVE

- ☐ Are there any open safety recalls?
- ☐ Do all lights, windows, locks and electronics work?
- ☐ Does it drive well at city and highway speeds?
- ☐ Can I hear it start with a cold engine?
- ☐ What maintenance or repairs are due soon?

PRICE & PROTECTION

- ☐ What is the total out-the-door price, including fees?
- ☐ Is there an outstanding loan or lien?
- ☐ Is it sold as-is or with a written warranty?
- ☐ May my independent mechanic inspect it before purchase?
- ☐ Am I comfortable walking away if pressured?

VEHICLE NOTES

Year / Make / Model: _____ Asking price: \$ _____

Mileage: _____ VIN: _____

Inspection date / findings: _____

Before you buy: Get an independent pre-purchase inspection.

Complete Automotive | Springfield, Missouri | Chestnut Expressway & South Campbell

An inspection reduces risk but cannot guarantee future reliability. Check recalls at [NHTSA.gov/recalls](https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls).