

Used vehicle buyer's checklist

Take this with you when you view a used car or van – from us or anywhere else. Tick each item as you go.

Before you travel

- ☐ Check the MOT history for free at gov.uk/check-mot-history using the registration.
- ☐ Check ULEZ / Clean Air Zone status at tfl.gov.uk if you drive in London.
- ☐ Get an insurance quote so you know the full running cost.
- ☐ Ask whether the vehicle has outstanding finance, has been written off or has had its mileage queried.
- ☐ Confirm the vehicle is still available and book a time to view.

Paperwork

- ☐ V5C logbook: the name and address match the seller, and the VIN matches the vehicle.
- ☐ Service history: stamps or invoices that match the mileage and dates.
- ☐ Receipts for major work, such as timing belt or clutch replacement.
- ☐ Number of keys, and the locking wheel nut if fitted.

Outside the vehicle

- ☐ Panel gaps are even and paint colour matches on every panel.
- ☐ Tyres have legal tread (1.6 mm minimum) and wear evenly; check the spare or repair kit.
- ☐ No cracks in the windscreen within the driver's view.
- ☐ All lights work, including brake lights and indicators.

Inside and on the test drive

- ☐ Warning lights come on with the ignition, then go out once the engine starts.
- ☐ The engine starts easily from cold with no unusual smoke or noises.
- ☐ Gear changes are smooth; the clutch does not slip or bite very high.
- ☐ The car brakes in a straight line and steering feels straight.
- ☐ Air conditioning blows cold, and electrics (windows, mirrors, infotainment) all work.

Before you pay

- ☐ Agree in writing what is included: MOT, service, warranty, number of keys.
- ☐ Read any finance agreement fully and keep a copy.
- ☐ Arrange insurance and tax before you drive away.

