

# *THE* *ULTIMATE* **USED CAR CHECKLIST.**

**The complete  
blueprint by  
Nimble**

Read over in detail  
[here](#)



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# BEFORE YOU TALK MONEY, HAVE YOU?

- ☐ Checked all documents
- ☐ Viewed service history/logbooks
- ☐ Checked the mileage
- ☐ Looked for dents & scratches
- ☐ Assessed the glass
- ☐ Done a tyre check
- ☐ Seen the spare wheel
- ☐ Checked the engine
- ☐ Checked the electrics
- ☐ Tested the lights
- ☐ Tested the brakes
- ☐ Tested the steering



# LOOKING GOOD? UP NEXT...

☐

Get a pre-purchase inspection

☐

Organise your paperwork

☐

Leave a deposit

☐

Decide how you'll pay



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## **Checked all documents**

Have a look at the rego papers and make sure that the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the paperwork matches the VIN on the engine. This is a MUST! If not, it's a different car.



## **Viewed service history/logbooks**

Ask to take a look at the logbook. It should show you how well they have maintained the car. Ideally, a car should be serviced every 10,000 – 15,000km or every 6 months.



## **Checked the mileage**

The odometer can tell you a lot about a car. On average, Australians do an average of 12,000km a year so if the odometer doesn't match up with the age, ask why. It's illegal to roll back the odometer but it doesn't mean it doesn't happen.



## **Looked for dents & scratches**

A few scuffs are signs of wear and tear, but have a look for any dodgy work. Uneven panels and blistered paintwork can indicate rust.



## **Assessed the glass**

Don't stress about small stone chips too much but if there are cracks, keep in mind that they spread over time and a new windscreen may be on the cards in the near future.



## **Done a tyre check**

Give the tyres a once over, front and back, to check for even wear. This will show poor wheel alignment but also allow you to examine the tread. If there is less than 1.5mm, the tyre should be replaced before you buy.



## **Seen the spare wheel**

It may sound trivial, but pop the boot and check the spare. Make sure it's there and make sure it's in decent condition.



## **Checked the engine**

While the car is cool, check the engine. Dust and minor dirt in the engine bay is normal but if you see oil splatters, battery corrosion or dangling wires, buyer beware. Hoses and belts should be firm and supple to touch, not brittle.



## **Checked the electrics**

Turn the ignition, to check that the electrical components are running smoothly. If it doesn't crank into life straight away, it could be a sign of an electrical issue – from a dud battery to an alternator on its last legs. Listen to see if the car idles smoothly or is blowing clouds of exhaust fumes. Test all the functions including the heater, air-con and sound systems.



## **Tested the lights**

Check the high beams, indicators and hazard lights, they all should work!



## **Gone for a test drive**

Warm the engine and take the car for a spin. See if you like the feeling of your potential new ride and make sure you are comfortable with the little things like winding the windows and changing gears. Maybe even give parking a go!



## **Tested the brakes**

At low speed, test the brakes. Does the pedal feel spongy or does the car tug to one side when you brake? If the brakes aren't effective, don't try driving at high speed.



## **Tested the steering**

Check if the steering is loose or overly stiff. And listen out for squeaky steering, it could be low power-steering fluid or it could be a more serious technical problem.



## Get a pre-purchase inspection

If you have a mechanical friend, bring them along to give the car a once over or alternatively a local motoring association may offer a pre-purchase car inspection service for a small fee. Don't forget any minor faults can be used as a bargaining tool as long as they aren't part of a bigger problem.



## Organise your paperwork

Check in with your state's regulations on the documentation and security you should expect to receive from either the dealer or private seller. A dealer will normally provide you with the appropriate paperwork including warranty. If buying privately, ask for:

- The rego papers
- Logbook
- Roadworthy Certificate (some states)
- Any defect notices
- A copy of the owners driver licence



## Leave a deposit

If you're certain the car is right for you, make an offer. To sweeten the deal, offer to pay a deposit on the spot. If you're not comfortable with the price, leave your contact details and walk away. They may just come back with a better offer. Make sure you organise a receipt, you might want to bring a long a friend just to sense-check the whole process.



## Decide how you will pay

The final step is to decide how you will pay. You have options which may include:

- Paying cash
- Used car dealer finance
- A Nimble Used Car Loan

