



Pre-purchase Inspection Checklist

TO CHECK DURING A TEST DRIVE

Before the drive

- Start and drive the car from cold with the choke to indicate choke and mixture effectiveness

During the drive

- Look, feel, smell and listen out for:
 - Clunks and rattles from worn suspension bushings
 - Whines from wheel bearings
 - Vague steering from worn ball joints
 - Excessive free play on clutch pedal from poor adjustment or hydraulic faults
 - Clunk when accelerating or backing off from worn drive shaft joints or splines on wire wheels
 - The car accelerating and decelerating smoothly
 - The car holding steady speed at 70 and 100 kph
 - Fuel and exhaust leaks
- Test the handbrake on a steep hill to check how well it holds
- Test the Park position on automatic cars on a steep hill
- Brake hard from a reasonable speed to see if it pulls to the left or right
- Repeat in reverse - but at a much lower speed
- Decelerate rapidly in each forward gear to check not jumping out.
- Check the brake pedal feel to check any servo is working ok
- Hold your foot hard on the brake pedal for 30 seconds to make sure it does not slowly sink
- Once warm see that the cars idles smoothly

TO CHECK WITH THE CAR ON THE GROUND

- Oil leaks
- Fluid levels and cleanliness
- Water leaks from radiator, hoses, heater
- Is there anti freeze in the radiator
- Check all the fan belts, etc. for adjustment and wear.
- Inspect welch plugs for water leaks and corrosion if you can see them
- Check newness and cleanliness of sparkplugs, leads, distributor, etc.
- Fuel leaks. Use your nose with the car idling
- Inspect Rubber Fuel Lines
- Check fuel tank for external corrosion
- Check brake and clutch master cylinder reservoir for fluid level & condition
- Inspect tyres for wear and condition
- Check all lights, indicators, horn, etc.
- Check wipers, washers and condition of windscreen itself
- Check all interior gauges
- Inspect Seat Belts
- Inspect body for rust, accident repair and overall condition of paint finish
- Check doors, locks, windows
- Check interior trim
- Check VIN and engine number to registration documents

TO CHECK ON A HOIST

- Fluid leaks
- CV and universal joints
- Free play in driveshaft/back axle
- Clutch slave cylinder condition
- Clutch cable condition
- Wheel bearing free play
- Inspect body for rust and accident repair
- With wheels removed
 - Check steering and suspension bushes and ball joints
 - Check brake calipers/wheel cylinders
 - Check disc/drum condition
 - Check pads/shoes for wear
 - Inspect shocks/struts for leaks and condition

ADVANCED ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS

- Check similar compression pressures on each cylinder
- Check engine oil pressure using a mechanical gauge
- Check correct fuel mixture throughout the rev range on a rolling road.