

VEHICLE CHECKLIST

At the RAC we've been inspecting vehicles since 1916. We asked our Vehicle Inspectors to compile an essential 'Top 20 Checklist' to help you when viewing the vehicle. If faults are found, you may be able to negotiate on the price of the vehicle.

1 EXTERIOR

- ☐ Check for any panel misalignment or previous damage
- ☐ Check for corrosion on older vehicles
- ☐ Check the windscreen for damage
- ☐ If you're buying a convertible, make sure the soft-top operates properly
- ☐ Check for worn brake pads
- ☐ Check the tyre tread depth and look for uneven tyre wear

2 INTERIOR

- ☐ Check the seat belts are in good working order and click into place properly
- ☐ Check the seat mechanism and upholstery for damage
- ☐ Ensure all the doors open and close properly
- ☐ Check the entertainment system / sat nav are working

3 ELECTRICAL / CONTROLS

- ☐ Check that all warning lights are working when the ignition is turned on
- ☐ Check that all lights are working
- ☐ Check that the vehicle starts easily

4 ENGINE COMPARTMENT

- ☐ Check the coolant, oil, brake and clutch fluid for contamination and that they are at the correct level
- ☐ Ensure there are no external leaks to the engine and gearbox

5 ROAD TEST

- ☐ Check noise levels from the engine and gearbox
- ☐ Check to ensure there is no excess smoke from the exhaust
- ☐ Check that the clutch and gearbox operate smoothly
- ☐ Check the steering for vibration, and that it is smooth in operation
- ☐ Check if there are any warning lights showing



BUYING CHECKLIST

Here are the steps you need to follow when purchasing a used vehicle. Use this checklist to make sure you are given all of the documentation you need during the sale.

1 CHECK THE VEHICLE HISTORY

All major changes such as number plate or colour changes should be registered with the DVLA. They could be innocent but they could also be an attempt to hide the identity of the vehicle. If you're unsure, highlight any concerns with the seller or the DVLA before you buy.

2 CHECK THE V5C

Check the details on the V5C (registration document) are consistent with the vehicle itself, and ask the seller for proof of address. If you're unsure check your concerns with the DVLA before you make your purchase.

3 VALIDATE THE VIN

The VIN is usually 17 digits long and is a combination of letters and numbers and is listed in the vehicle V5 document. Make a note of the VIN number and we'll check it matches the VIN number registered to the vehicle at no extra cost.

How to validate the VIN:

- Log into rac.co.uk/vehiclehistorycheck
- Enter the registration number and your report reference number
- We'll verify the VIN number against the VIN registered to the vehicle

4 TEST DRIVE INSURANCE

Are you insured to take the vehicle out for a test drive? Your standard vehicle insurance may not cover you to drive the vehicle, for peace of mind you can arrange temporary insurance so you can road-test the vehicle knowing you're covered should anything happen.

Get a quote to insure the vehicle with RAC Day Vehicle Insurance¹ rac.co.uk/testdrive

¹RAC Day vehicle Insurance is arranged and administered by Dayinsure.com Ltd, which is registered in England no. 4996289. RAC Day Insurance is underwritten by Aviva Insurance Limited.

5 PURCHASING THE VEHICLE

To prevent invalidation of the guarantee you shouldn't part with more than £1,000 in cash as part of the purchase, or pay less than 70% of the market price for a vehicle (if it's that cheap then it probably is too good to be true).

View terms & conditions here: <https://vehicle-history-check.rac.co.uk/terms-conditions>

6 GET A RECEIPT

It's important to document the purchase with a receipt. The receipt should:

- Confirm that the vehicle is 'sold as seen, tried and approved without guarantee'
- Include the date of purchase
- Include the signature from the buyer and the seller.

7 INSURANCE

If you've bought the vehicle, make sure you have called to update your insurance with the new vehicle details before driving away.

Request a quote to insure your vehicle with RAC Vehicle Insurance¹ rac.co.uk/insurance

¹RAC Car Insurance is arranged and administered by BISL Limited, which is an independent intermediary, and is underwritten by a panel of insurers.

8 PURCHASE VEHICLE TAX

Vehicle tax can't be transferred from the seller to the buyer when purchasing a vehicle, so if you're buying a vehicle you'll need to register for tax at the time of purchase.

0300 123 4321 *

CALL THE DVLA TO ARRANGE TAX BEFORE YOU DRIVE AWAY

*03 numbers are charged at national call rates and are usually included in inclusive minute plans from landlines and mobiles. Calls may be recorded and / or monitored.

9 ACTIVATE GUARANTEE

To protect your purchase, we offer a free data guarantee up to £30,000 to ensure that you don't suffer a financial loss due to incorrect or incomplete data in your car history check. This covers the Alerts, Alerts in Detail and Vehicle History sections of your Vehicle History Report.

How to activate your data guarantee:

- Log into rac.co.uk/vehiclehistorycheck
- Enter the registration number and this report reference number
- Follow the on-screen prompts to activate your guarantee

View terms & conditions here: <https://vehicle-history-check.rac.co.uk/terms-conditions>