

Car Buying Checklist		Vehicle:	
		KBB Value:	Edmunds:
Checked	Concern	Notes	
	Check Tires – Check lifespan, worn on edges indicates worn wheel bearings or bad alignment. ALL 4 SAME?		
	Check Mileage – Check for odo rollback, check for brake pedal wear.		
	Check Body Lines – Check to make sure body lines are aligned. Misalignment = significant collision.		
	Check VINs on Parts – Check to make sure VIN matches on windows, doors, etc.		
	Check Paint – Does it match all the way around, check for pinholes, check for rust.		
	Check Underside – Exhaust rust, CC wear, CV joints, look for oil residue.		
	Check Tailpipe – Is the residue black and dusty (OK) or oily/thick (burned oil).		
	Check Coolant – Is it clear, or milky (leaking headgasket)?		
	Check Dipstick – Is it clear or black? See if it smells burned.		
	Check Windows – Any chips? Peeling laminate?		
	Check Dash Indicators – With key turned in “start” position, engine off. Are all the lights illuminated?		
	Remove the Spare Tire – Is it there? Is the jack and tire iron still there? Is there any water damage?		
	Check Under Hood – Check belts for fray, check rubber for suppleness, check connectors, check for rust.		
	Start the Car – Does it turn over well? Does it sound Okay? Is there piston slap?		
	Turn on Defrost, Heat all the way up – Does it smell okay? Does it smell like burned oil?		
	Rev the Engine – Is there any white smoke?		
	Try all the windows, hood release, locks, keys in all the doors, trunk – Do they all work?		
	Turn the AC Controls – Does the fan speed change, does the AC work? Is there any weird noise or smell?		
	Check Under Hood Again – Does everything look fine? Does the paint match the body paint?		
	Test Drive – Does it sound okay? Do the wheel bearings sound fine? Turn off all the fans and listen carefully.		
	Check Interior – Stains? Do all the seats fold back? Does it smell okay?		
	Check Headlights – Do they turn on? Check high beams. Check brake lights.		
	Check Roof – Any sagging interior? Is the rubber cracking on the outside? Any signs of leaking?		
	Check Title & Registration – Does it match seller’s driver’s license? Are they a curbstoner?		
	Get It Checked by Private Mechanic – Verify that repairs were actually made.		
	Other?		