



# USED CAR BUYING GUIDE

| CAR DETAILS |  |
|-------------|--|
| MAKE        |  |
| MODEL       |  |
| PRICE       |  |
| YEAR        |  |
| MILEAGE     |  |



# STEP 1 - ACCIDENT DAMAGE

Damage checks when buying a used car are important. Avoid vehicles that have been in major accident

|  | <u>GOOD</u> | <u>POOR</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Paint over-spray</b><br>Open the trunk, bonnet and doors. Look for paint over-spray.  |             |             |
| <b>Walk around the car</b><br>All the body parts should have the same colour. Look closely for small variations in the paint colour.                                 |             |             |
| <b>Fridge magnet test</b><br>Place the magnet gently on various body panels. If the magnet does not stick, there might be plastic body filler present.               |             |             |
| <b>Misalignment</b><br>Take a step away from the car to see if all the vehicle's panels align. Any small misalignment is a big clue that the car was in an accident. |             |             |
| <b>Panel Gaps</b><br>The gaps between the panels don't match. The gap might be a tiny bit wider on the door-2-door panels than the door-to-front panels.             |             |             |



# STEP 2 - SERVICE BOOK

A better maintained vehicle is most likely reliable. Check what has been changed on the car.

|   | <u>GOOD</u> | <u>POOR</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Service stamp</b><br>Check that the service book has been stamped (serviced) at regular                                  |             |             |
| <b>Service interval</b><br>Service intervals for a petrol vehicle should be every 15 000km and 10 000km for diesel vehicles |             |             |
| <b>Parts Changed</b><br>Check what was actually changed and when is it due for next service.                                |             |             |

## Which One Should I Get



# STEP 3

## ENGINE BAY

|  | <u>GOOD</u> | <u>POOR</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Fluid check</b><br>Check the radiator fluid with your finger. It should not be foamy or have oily droplets. If this is the case it might be a defective head gasket or worse, a cracked block or cylinder head. Do not buy the car!           |             |             |
| <b>Dipstick Colour</b><br>Check out the colour of the oil on the dipstick. An unusually dark colour could be a sign that oil has not been changed in a long time.  |             |             |
| <b>Listen test - Part 1</b><br>Start the engine. Listen...Clucking, whistling, banging sounds are not normal and will give you an indication something is wrong. Ask the salesman to increase the revs of the car's engine and listen carefully. |             |             |
| <b>Listen test Part 2</b><br>This same "listen test" as above should be performed while you test drive the car.  |             |             |



# STEP 4

## DASHBOARD LIGHTS

|  | <u>GOOD</u> | <u>POOR</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Dashboard lights - Part 1</b> <p>Turn the key to the “Accessory” position (the last position before the engine starts). All the dashboard elements should light up. Both the “check engine” and, if equipped with antilock brakes, the “ABS” lights should illuminate. If they do not, the problem could be as minor as a burned-out bulb or as serious as an engine fault.</p> |             |             |
| <b>Dashboard lights - Part 2</b> <p>Look if any dashboard lights stay illuminated after you start the car. The vehicle’s user manual will help you identify what each warning light means. Make sure you know.</p>   |             |             |





# STEP 5

## SIGNS OF DRIVER ABUSE

|   | <u>GOOD</u> | <u>POOR</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Pedals</b><br>The condition of the pedals (petrol, brake and clutch). Do the rubber footpads show signs for wear and tear? |             |             |
| <b>Steering wheel</b><br>This is a good place to see if a vehicle had been driven excessively hard. Look for abuse            |             |             |
| <b>Gear lever</b><br>This is another area where you will easily notice if the vehicle has been abused.                        |             |             |



# STEP 6

## TEST DRIVE

|   | <u>GOOD</u> | <u>POOR</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <p><b>Test Drive the Car</b></p> <p>The test drive should take about 20 minutes. Drive a route where there are lots of stop and go opportunities. Don't be afraid to run the revs of the car higher than normal push the engine a bit in each gear.</p> <p>Take the car on the highway or bigger road to build up some speed</p> <p>Switch off the Radio. Open the windows. Listen for any clunk clunk, rattle or high pitched whistling noises when you accelerate listen for noises. Trust your gut, if there are weird noises coming from somewhere, something is wrong.</p> <p>Do this same exercise with the windows closed.</p> |             |             |



# STEP 7

## GEARBOX

|  | <u>GOOD</u> | <u>POOR</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Noise</b><br>While driving the vehicle, use all the gears. Feel if there is any resistance when shifting up and down. There should NOT be any weird noises when shifting gears  |             |             |
| <b>Stiffness, Lagging</b><br>There should be no lag when you shift between gears. As you shift through the gears focus on how the car reacts in each gear. The car must react instantly to what you do. The gears should shift smoothly without resistance. Be gentle and feel how the gear lever moves between each gear. Stiffness or any noise should be a big RED FLAG |             |             |





# STEP 8 BRAKES

|  | <u>GOOD</u> | <u>POOR</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>ABS BRAKES</b><br>ABS brakes should have a slight pulsating feel to it when you apply a heavy force to it.  |             |             |
| <b>Straight Line</b><br>The car should also continue in a straight line while braking. If the vehicle pulls to the right or to the left, there could be a brake or steering problem. |             |             |

## Which One Should I Get



# STEP 9

## STEERING CHECKS

|   | <u>GOOD</u> | <u>POOR</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Steering Rotation</b><br>Before you start driving wind the windows down. Turn the steering wheel all the way to the left and all the way to the right. Listen carefully, there should not be any weird noises.<br><br>The full rotation of the steering wheel should be even and smooth without excessive resistance |             |             |
| <b>Steering Vibrations</b><br>No vibrations on the steering when you drive. This also applies to when you brake hard. Heavy vibrations could be anything from unbalanced tyres to a loose steering rack. Not good.  |             |             |



# STEP 10

## ROADWORTHY TEST CHECKLIST

|                                      | <u>GOOD</u> | <u>POOR</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Safety Belts Functionality</b>    |             |             |
| <b>Hazard &amp; Indicator Lights</b> |             |             |
| <b>Brake &amp; parking lights</b>    |             |             |
| <b>Headlights &amp; fog lights</b>   |             |             |
| <b>Tyre Thread</b>                   |             |             |
| <b>Window Wiper Operations</b>       |             |             |
| <b>Undercarriage Condition</b>       |             |             |
| <b>Front Suspension</b>              |             |             |
| <b>Rear Suspension</b>               |             |             |
| <b>View Mirror</b>                   |             |             |

