



Pre-Purchase Vehicle Inspection Checklist

What we check before you buy — clear and independent

Independent inspection for private sales and used vehicles. We check identification, mechanical systems, electrics and how the car drives — then explain findings in plain language so you can weigh likely costs against the asking price before you buy.

WHAT YOU GET

A structured workshop assessment with plain-language findings — so you can negotiate or walk away with confidence.

NOT A ROADWORTHY

A roadworthy checks minimum legal safety. This inspection is deeper — for you as the buyer.

01 Vehicle identification & documentation

- VIN (chassis number) — verified on body & windscreen
- Registration number & expiry date
- Odometer reading — consistency / signs of tampering (where applicable)
- Service book & maintenance records
- PPSR check

02 Tyres & wheels

- Tyre tread depth (min 1.5 mm for RWC)
- Tyre wear pattern — even / uneven
- Tyre age (DOT date codes)
- Wheel condition — cracks, bends
- Wheel nuts present & tight
- Spare wheel / repair kit present

03 Suspension & steering

- Front & rear suspension — play, leaks, bush condition
- Shock absorbers — leakage / performance
- Ball joints / tie rods — play, boots intact
- Steering operation — smoothness, noise, free play
- Power steering system — leaks, fluid level

04 Braking system

- Brake pedal feel / travel
- Brake fluid level & condition
- Front / rear brake pads thickness
- Brake rotors — scoring, thickness, runout
- Brake hoses — cracks / leaks
- Handbrake operation — holds on incline
- ABS / DSC warning lights

05 Engine & under-bonnet inspection

- Engine oil level & condition
- Transmission / diff oil (if accessible)
- Hoses & clamps — leaks or swelling
- Battery health & terminals
- Visible oil or coolant leaks (rocker cover, oil cooler, rear main seal, timing cover)
- Coolant level / leaks / condition
- Belts & pulleys — cracks, noise
- Radiator / expansion tank condition
- Air filter / intake system



What we check before you buy

Findings explained clearly — before you commit

06 Exhaust system

- Secure mounting — no leaks or excessive noise
- Exhaust smoke — colour / smell

07 Transmission & driveline

- Automatic / manual gearbox — operation, shifting quality
- Clutch engagement (manual)
- Transmission fluid leaks
- CV joints / boots condition
- Differential leaks / noises
- Driveshafts & mounts

08 Interior & electrical

- Computer diagnostic scan
- Interior condition — trim, seats, carpets, headlining
- Seatbelts — retraction & locking
- Windows, locks, mirrors, wipers — function test
- Air conditioning / heating operation
- Dashboard warning lights (no fault lights)
- Instrument cluster, horn, interior lights
- Infotainment, CarPlay / Bluetooth, reverse camera
- Power outlets, USBs
- Airbag light & system check

09 Road test

- Starting performance (cold / hot)
- Idle quality, noise, vibrations
- Acceleration, gearbox shifting
- Braking performance, ABS function
- Steering tracking & straightness
- Suspension noises, vibrations
- Temperature stability
- Warning lights during drive

10 Underbody & chassis

- Rust / corrosion
- Fuel lines & brake lines

Important

This checklist outlines a typical StalexAuto pre-purchase inspection. Coverage can vary by vehicle access, condition and booking scope. It is not a roadworthy certificate or a guarantee of future reliability. You receive plain-language findings so you can decide with eyes open.

Book a pre-purchase inspection

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All makes welcome · Clear advice before you buy