

Check at least these things on a car you are looking at BUT always have a mechanic you know, and trust look at the car too.

Outside the car

- ☐ Body parts match
- ☐ No excessive rust on body of car
- ☐ Open all doors, test that key opens locks
- ☐ Check tires
 - ☐ Are they wearing even?
 - ☐ Turn front tires left to right to check wear
 - ☐ Tires same size
- ☐ Look for leaks under car
- ☐ Make sure nothing is hanging loose under car
- ☐ Grill not bent or wavy

Inside of Car

- ☐ Check the odometer.
 - ☐ Make sure it matches what the dealer says.
 - ☐ Make sure it doesn't show any signs of tampering (numbers misaligned, missing screws, etc.)
- ☐ Turn on car and make sure all dash lights come on especially the following:
 - ☐ Check engine
 - ☐ ABS (the braking system)
 - ☐ SRS (airbags)
- ☐ All dash lights should turn off within a few seconds
- ☐ Check A/C
 - ☐ Test all buttons and knobs
 - ☐ Test all temperature settings
 - ☐ Test fan speeds
 - ☐ Test air vents
- ☐ Test all door handles and locks
- ☐ Roll all windows down and back up
- ☐ Make sure VIN number on title and on car is the same

Under the Hood

- ☐ Hood has latch
- ☐ Look for corrosion on the following:
 - ☐ Hoses
 - ☐ Belts
 - ☐ Battery
- ☐ Look for replaced parts- or parts that don't match
- ☐ Fluids full
- ☐ Oil should be clear and clean

Car Mechanics

- ☐ Let car idle- it shouldn't stall or misfire
- ☐ No rattling, knocking or weird noises
- ☐ No squeaking belts and fans work
- ☐ No smoke coming from car
- ☐ No clunking in the engine when driving
- ☐ Get professional diagnosis of car's computer if they can. Most car parts stores will do this for free.

Road Test the Car

- ☐ Drive in the city
- ☐ Drive on the highway
- ☐ Car accelerates smoothly
- ☐ Car brakes well

Miscellaneous

- ☐ Check consumer reports about the type of car
- ☐ Check Carfax to look up the history of that specific car
- ☐ Ask if they have maintenance reports on the car

NOTES: