

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN BUYING A CAR

FREE PDF CHECKLIST



UPMOVE

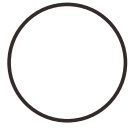


UPMOVE

CAR CHECKLIST

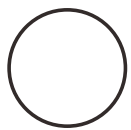
- ☒ *Make appointment*
- ☒ *Check Paperwork*
- ☒ *Inspect Outside*
- ☐ *Check Under Bonnet*
- ☐ *Check Inside*
- ☐ *Do a Mechanical Check*
- ☐ *Test Drive*

Paperwork



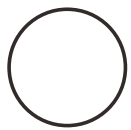
Seller details

If it's a private sale, you want to make sure that the owner is the seller. Get a copy of their driver's licence and compare it to the registration papers.



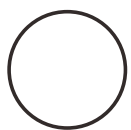
Compliance Plate

All Australian cars should have a compliance plate. You'll find it in the engine area, and it confirms that the car complies with the Australian Design Rules (ADRs).



Check the car's details

All documents should correspond with the actual details of the car. Ensure that the VIN number, date of manufacture, engine number (which appears on the engine) and number plates match those on the registration papers.

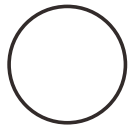


Roadworthiness Certificate

While this isn't always compulsory in all states, it can be helpful when buying a used car. Usually, the seller pays the roadworthiness test, so don't be afraid to ask.

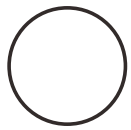
Car Inspection

Outside



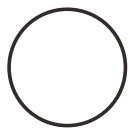
Paintwork

Make sure there aren't any bubbles or differences in the colour. This could be an indication of an accident or rust damage. You can also use a magnet to check for body filler - magnets don't stick to filler.



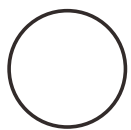
Check doors, bonnet, boot, windows

If it seems like the doors, boot, bonnet, or windows don't fit properly, it could indicate a past accident.



Tyres

Ideally, the tyres should still have some tread (at least 3-4mm). Make sure there isn't uneven wear which could indicate a steering or suspension issue. You should also make sure that there is a spare tyre.

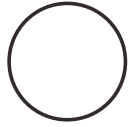


Leaks

Have the car stand while doing the inspection and at the end check under the car for any leaks. Oil leaks are a big concern as this may affect transporting your car later. Other leaks like water should also be checked out.

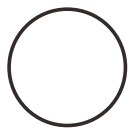
Car Inspection

Under the bonnet



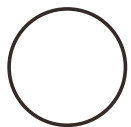
Check the dipstick

Low oil levels or grey /milky oil may indicate engine problems.



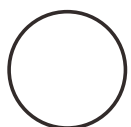
Coolant

Very important in Australia, you need to remove the radiator cap and check the coolant. The coolant should be bright and clean. Any oil or dirt in the coolant may need to be checked out.



Radiator fans

Check the radiator fans, they should be clean and spinning freely.

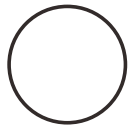


Battery

Your battery and the mounting platform should be clean and free from corrosion and other damage.

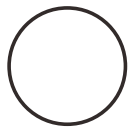
Car Inspection

Inside



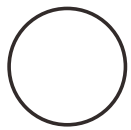
Upholstery

Check the general condition of the upholstery, trim and carpets. Any rips or tears should be cause for concern.



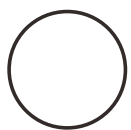
Seat belts

Make sure all seat belts are in good condition and secure - including the rear seats.



Seats

The seats should still be comfortable and firm.

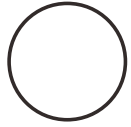


Lights, Accessories and Electronic Parts

Headlights, indicators, brake lights and reverse lights should all be in good working order. Air conditioning, power windows, windscreen wipers, central locking and car radio need to be checked.

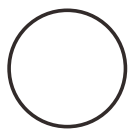
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Inside



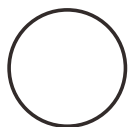
Rust

Check for any rust and signs of repair inside the car. If there is extensive rust, the car may not be worth buying.



Jack and Toolkit

The toolkit and jack should also be in good condition and complete. Make sure you also check the jacking points as they are used to lift the car during a tyre change. The jack points should be clearly marked and without damage.



Radio Security Pin

If the car has a security system, make sure you get the code from the seller to be able to use it. You'll have to reset it every time after your battery is removed or replaced.

Mechanical Check

Start the engine

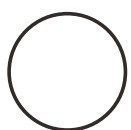
- ☐ **Open the bonnet and let the engine idle.**
- ☐ **When starting the engine and idling, check for any exhaust fumes.**
- ☐ **Noise from the exhaust can indicate rust and the need for a new muffler.**
- ☐ **Any irregular noises, rattling or knocking in the engine should be noted.**
- ☐ **See if there are any leaks.**
- ☐ **Check the oil filler cap for fumes: this may indicate a problem with the engine.**

On the Road

Test Drive

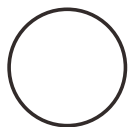
It's best to do a test drive on a quiet road. This will help you hear any noises and remove distractions from traffic. Make sure the car has insurance before test driving, and take enough time - a quick spin around the block won't cut it.

What to look out for during your test drive



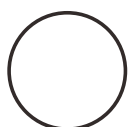
Engine

Start the engine and check for any unusual noises. The engine should be running smoothly with no rattles or vibrations.



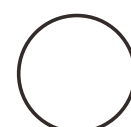
Gears

The gears should change smoothly without any grinding.



Dashboard

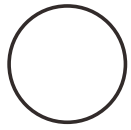
There shouldn't be any warning lights coming on during your drive.



Noises

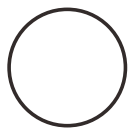
Listen for any strange noises, especially when driving over bumps. The car should be quiet when driving.

What to look out for during your test drive



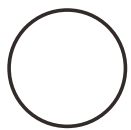
Exhaust

The exhaust should be clean with no black smoke when you accelerate.



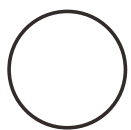
Steering

The steering wheel should move smoothly and easily without any jerking. There shouldn't be more than 5cm of play.



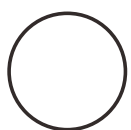
Car Alignment

Check that the car is correctly aligned - it shouldn't pull to one side when you ease your grip during the drive. If it pulls to one side, your steering could be misaligned. This can cause extra wear and tear on your tyres.



Brakes

The brakes should be responsive and stop the car quickly.



Rear Visibility

Check that the rear view is good.

How Upmove works

Upmove is helping thousands of people like you to find a professional car transportation company across Australia

1 Create your request

It's simple and easy to create a request on Upmove.

Describe, add photos and the specifications of your car in your request — anything that you think will make a difference, will make a difference.

Our platform will reach out to car movers relevant to your car move specification in your area.



2 Arrange collection and delivery

Car transportation companies may ask you a few more details about your job specification before giving you the cheapest quote.

Compare prices and get to know car transporters before accepting their quote by reading previous customer reviews on our platform.

Pick your preferred car transportation company and arrange collection and delivery.

3 Meet and greet

Prepare your car for collection and transportation.

Meet and greet your chosen car transporter on your collection day.

Sit back and relax while your professional car transporter takes care of your car.



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