

# Pre-Purchase Inspection Checklist

Tick each box as you verify the item. Use the notes space on each line if you print and write on the sheet.

**Vehicle (Year/Make/Model):** \_\_\_\_\_

**VIN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Odometer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Inspection Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Inspector:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 1. Engine & Fluids

- Oil leaks around the engine, oil pan, valve cover and seals
- Coolant leaks at hoses, radiator, water pump and heater core
- Condition and level of all fluids: engine oil, coolant, transmission, brake, power steering
- Unusual noises on start-up or under load (knocking, ticking, rattling)
- Exhaust smoke (blue, white or heavy black) which can indicate internal problems

## 2. Transmission & Drivetrain

- Automatic transmission shifting (smooth, no slipping, flaring or hard clunks)
- Manual transmission and clutch operation (no grinding, smooth engagement)
- Differentials and AWD/4x4 system (no whining, clunks, or warning lights)
- CV axles and driveshafts (no torn boots, excess play or vibration under acceleration)

## 3. Brakes, Suspension & Steering

- Brake pad and rotor wear, thickness and condition
- Brake lines and hoses for rust, damage or leaks
- Struts and shocks for leaks, excessive bouncing or poor control over bumps
- Ball joints, tie rods, control arms and bushings for play or torn rubber
- Steering feel and response (no excessive play, pulling, or clunking when turning)

## 4. Tires & Wheels

- Tread depth and overall condition (no cracking, bulges or obvious damage)
- Even versus uneven wear (can point to alignment or suspension issues)
- Matching set of tires (brand, size and type)
- Wheels/rims for bends, cracks or heavy curb damage

## **5. Body, Frame & Rust**

- [ ] Rust on rocker panels, wheel arches, underbody and key mounting points
- [ ] Signs of previous collision repairs (mismatched paint, uneven panel gaps, overspray)
- [ ] Frame or unibody damage (kinks, bends, fresh undercoating hiding repairs)
- [ ] Condition of glass and lights (chips, cracks, cloudy or broken lenses)

## **6. Electrical System & Electronics**

- [ ] Exterior and interior lights (headlights, signals, brake and reverse lights)
- [ ] Power windows, locks, mirrors, wipers and washer functions
- [ ] Heating and air conditioning performance across all settings
- [ ] Infotainment systems, backup cameras, sensors and other convenience features
- [ ] Battery condition and charging system performance

## **7. Computer Scan & Warning Lights**

- [ ] Scan for stored and pending diagnostic trouble codes in all major modules
- [ ] Check that warning lights come on with the key and go off after starting
- [ ] Look at readiness monitors to see if codes were recently cleared

## **8. Test Drive**

- [ ] Cold start behaviour, idle quality and warm-up
- [ ] Acceleration and braking (smoothness, stability, vibrations or pulling)
- [ ] Steering feel at different speeds and on different road surfaces
- [ ] Noises over bumps or at highway speed (clunks, humming, whining, rattles)

## **9. History & Paperwork**

- [ ] Service records showing regular maintenance
- [ ] Evidence of major past repairs and how they were handled
- [ ] Any rebuilt, salvage or out-of-province status
- [ ] Open recalls, if information is available