

*Emsworth Auto
Dealers Presents*

**WHAT TO LOOK
FOR WHEN
BUYING A USED
CAR?**



INTRODUCTION

Buying a used car has many benefits – more flexible price ranges, slower depreciation of value and a wider range of options. But unfortunately, you could just as easily end up with a bad deal if you don't know what to look for.

Learning more about what to look out for can help you get better value for money. To help you start your journey, here are just a few things to look for when you inspect a car you're planning to buy.

WHERE TO START?

Ideally, you should have narrowed your ideal car down to a few different models. Once you know what you want, shop around and get an idea of what the going rate for your chosen car is. Take mileage into consideration, as well as the particular year model. Both these things can affect the price. The engine size and type (petrol or diesel) can also influence the cost of a car.

THE ENGINE

The engine is what powers the car, so it goes without saying that you should take a look at it before you invest in a vehicle. Here's what to look for when inspecting the engine.

1

The engine should be clean, especially at the battery terminals. A dirty engine means that the car might have been neglected.

Strange knocking noises are a bad sign. If you don't know much about cars, it's safer to steer clear of a any car that doesn't sound quite right.

2

THE ENGINE

3

Check the water to see if it's clean. Dirty or oily water is a bad sign. Even if you don't know how to check the water yourself, you can ask the seller to show you where to look.

Let the engine run a little, turn it off and then let the car stand for some time. After doing this, there should be no puddles of oil or water under the car, Just remember that the air-conditioning could also be causing some water to leak, but this should only be a few drops.

4

THE CAR BODY

You'll want to check for scratches and small dents, of course. But there are some more important things to look out for when you're inspecting the body of a used car:

1

Take a look at whether the width of spaces between panels are equal. If the spacing between panels vary from place to place, there's a good chance the car was in an accident.

Look out for rust. It's not very pleasant and could cost a lot to fix. Checking the car exterior for rust is especially important if the car was owned by someone who lived in the coastal areas where humidity is higher.

2

THE CAR BODY

3

Carefully look at all the panels to see whether you can spot small differences in color. Panels that are colored slightly different from the rest have most likely been repainted, suggesting the car might have been involved in a minor accident.

All the tires should be worn more or less equally. If one tire is worn considerably more, the wheel alignment might be a headache to deal with. Some cars have wheel alignment issues that don't seem to go away with any amount of balancing.

4

THE TEST DRIVE

The proof is in the pudding! Buying a car before test driving it is a bad idea, seeing as there could be major problems that only become apparent while you're driving.

1

Get a feel of whether or not the car has enough engine power to pull its weight. If your budget is too small to buy a car with a big engine, consider shopping for smaller cars that can pull their own weight despite having smaller engines.

Overheating is bad, so keep an eye on the temperature. If possible, accelerate to reach the highest gear. This will help you see whether or not the car overheats when you drive at higher speeds.

2

THE TEST DRIVE

3

Does the car drive in a straight line, or is it prone to pulling to either one side or the other? A car that pulls sharply to one side when you take your hands off the steering wheel for only a brief moment, indicates that the car might have problems with wheel alignment. While you should check for this when you inspect the car body, you won't see anything if the car has a new set of tires.

How's the braking? Any strange noises? Does the ABS work? Being able to break at any second is important for your safety, so drive somewhere quiet and test whether or not the car can pull off a proper emergency stop.

4

SHOP AROUND

Once you've chosen a car, you might have to use it for quite some time. If you're not completely satisfied with a car you looked at, continue your search until you find the perfect vehicle for your needs.

Also feel free to visit Emsworth Auto for advice on what car to buy, as well as great deals on all your favorite car models. All our cars and trucks pass a rigorous set of tests before being allowed on our floor, so you can be certain we're selling you only the best quality vehicles at competitive prices!