

10 Top Tips on Buying a Used Car.

- (1) Work out a fair price for the car you want. Research prices using the Internet, car price guides and magazines. It may also pay you to find out how much it will cost to insure the car you want to buy.
- (2) Your rights vary according to whom you buy from. You could buy from a car dealer, an auction, the internet or a private individual. Buying from a dealer is probably the safest way to buy a used car.
- (3) Look for an established dealer with a good reputation who belongs to a trade association.
- (4) Take the car for a test drive in daylight and when it's dry.
- (5) Have the car checked by an independent vehicle engineer. If the seller is not happy to have the car inspected walk away!
Some dealers sell cars with a written report on the vehicle's condition.
- (6) If paying a deposit, make sure it's paid " subject to inspection " so that it is returnable in case the inspection report advises against buying the vehicle.
- (7) Check the service record book especially if the car is still under an extended warranty from the manufacturer. If the servicing hasn't been carried out properly it may invalidate the warranty.
- (8) Low mileage is a selling point, check previous M.O.T. certificates and service documents to verify the mileometer reading. It is illegal to reduce a car's mileage.
Are the pedal rubbers, gear knob or steering wheel new or do they exhibit heavy wear and tear? All of these can be indicators that the car has done a high mileage or that the mileage has been turned back. The wear and tear on a vehicle should be consistent with its mileage.



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- (9) Vehicle history can be checked with previous owners. Ask whether it has been involved in an accident or had any faults prior to sale. There are companies that will check the car's history for a fee. They will be able to ascertain if a car has been reported as stolen, written off by an insurance company or is the subject of an outstanding finance agreement.

AA / Experian (Car Data Check)
Tel. 0800 234 999 or 0870 600 0838

Carwatch UK Ltd. (Vehicle History Check)
Tel. 0870 010 7899

HPI Ltd. (Outstanding Finance Agreements & mileage)
Tel. 01722 422 422

VMC LTD (Vehicle Mileage Check)
Tel. 01663 766068

DVLA (Vehicle Check Service – confirms date of first registration, colour & engine capacity.)
Tel. 0906 1858585 – premium rate line

DVLA Helpline (informs whether a vehicle registration document is genuine.)
Tel. 0870 2411878

- (10) If you buy a car privately, you have no statutory protection. Your only redress is in relation to any misdescriptions made by the seller. Some car traders pretend to be private sellers to avoid their legal obligations to their customers. Car dealers are required to indicate in their advertisements that they are selling cars in the course of a business. Often this is done by the use of the letter " T " in the advert.



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