Used Vehicle Test Drive Checklist



Test driving a used vehicle before purchasing it helps assess its condition, comfort, performance, and compatibility with your lifestyle. Visually inspecting and driving the vehicle can identify potential issues before you buy it. By experiencing the vehicle firsthand on the road, you can confirm its overall reliability and make an informed and confident decision.

NOTE: It is recommended to inspect and test drive vehicles in the daylight, for safety and for the best visibilty.

OUTSIDE	Y/N
Look for dents, rust, rock chips in the windshield, and any other damage.	
Are the tires inflated properly, and do they have good tread depth?	
Is anything leaking from the vehicle? (check under the engine and drivetrain)	
Ensure all the doors and trunk/hatch are functional.	
Check that all the lights are functional. (eg. headlights, brake lights, and turn signals)	
Is there a spare tire and jack? (if applicable)	
Has the vehicle been in any accidents? (ask the seller to show you where)	
INSIDE	Y/N
Check that the seats, steering wheel and mirrors adjust properly.	
Do all the seatbelts function properly?	
Do all the windows roll up and down? (sunroof/convertible if applicable)	
Are there any dashboard indicator lights on? (eg. check engine light, low oil, faults, etc)	
Does the number of kilometers on the odometer match what you were told?	
Do the climate controls (heat & air conditioning), and heated/cooled seats work?	
Do the stereo and all electronics function properly? (eg. bluetooth, CarPlay, navigation)	
Ensure the windshield wipers work.	

ON THE ROAD	Y/N
Does the engine start right away? (ie. no cough or sputter)	
Is there any shaking or rattling while running?	
Does the vehicle accelerate smoothly?	
Does it shift gears smoothly?	
Do the brakes respond quickly?	
Does the vehicle handle and steer smoothly?	
Do you hear any rattling, knocking or grinding noises while driving?	
Ensure it drives in a straight line. (ie. doesn't pull to one side)	
How does the vehicle handle different road conditions? (ie. city vs highway speed, bumps)	
Do you notice any large blind spots while driving? How is your visibility?	
Check that the cruise control works. (and the adaptive cruise control if equipped)	
Are the seats comfortable?	
Are all the gauges working correctly? (eg. fuel, temperature, speedometer, etc)	
Does the horn work?	
Test that the vehicle can shift into reverse.	
Do the backup camera and parking assistance features work?	

NOTES