

Used-Car Inspection Checklist

CarOK

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46 things to check before you buy a used car in Pakistan — print it, tick as you go.

ENGINE

6 checks

- ☐ Abnormal engine noise (ticking, knocking, rattling)
- ☐ Engine oil leakage — under the car and around gaskets
- ☐ Coolant level and colour — brown or rusty means trouble
- ☐ Belt and pulley condition — cracks or fraying
- ☐ Engine mounts — excessive vibration at idle
- ☐ Hoses and wiring — splits, burns, or loose connectors

PRO TIP Always check the engine cold. A warm engine hides oil leaks and starting issues.

BRAKES

5 checks

- ☐ Brake pad life — below 25% means replace soon
- ☐ Front disc condition — grooves or heat cracks are serious
- ☐ Brake pedal feel — spongy = air in lines or failing master cylinder
- ☐ Handbrake holds on a slope
- ☐ No brake fluid leaks at wheels or under the bonnet

PRO TIP Brake hard on the test drive. Pulling to one side means uneven pad wear.

SUSPENSION & STEERING

5 checks

- ☐ Steering alignment — does the car pull left or right?
- ☐ Ball joints — clunking over bumps
- ☐ Shock absorbers — bounce test at each corner
- ☐ Steering play — more than 3 cm is excessive
- ☐ Suspension noise over speed bumps

PRO TIP Suspension is one of the most expensive used-car repairs in Pakistan. Never skip it.

ELECTRICAL

6 checks

- ☐ Dashboard warning lights — any lit icon needs investigation
- ☐ ECU error codes — needs a scanner (ask CarOK)
- ☐ Battery terminals — corrosion or loose clamps
- ☐ Alternator charging — 13.8–14.4V when running
- ☐ All interior and exterior lights working
- ☐ Central locking, power windows, mirrors functioning

PRO TIP Sellers often clear ECU codes before a viewing. A scan after a drive reveals the truth.

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Structural, paint, interior and the test drive — the items most people miss.

STRUCTURAL & CHASSIS

6 checks

- ☐ Front rails — bent rails = major accident history
- ☐ A, B, C, D pillars — rust or welds indicate repair
- ☐ Boot floor — lift the carpet, check for rust or patch welding
- ☐ Strut towers — cracks here are a safety risk
- ☐ Cowl panel between bonnet and windscreen
- ☐ Radiator core support — check for straightness

PRO TIP Structural damage is the one thing that cannot be properly fixed. Walk away if rails are bent.

EXTERIOR & PAINT

6 checks

- ☐ Paint thickness — uneven readings mean repaint or filler
- ☐ Panel gaps — uneven gaps indicate accident repair
- ☐ Dents, scratches, and rust on every panel
- ☐ Windscreen cracks or chips — replacement is expensive
- ☐ Tyre tread depth and even wear across all 4 tyres
- ☐ Rim condition — cracks or bends

PRO TIP Check paint in direct sunlight — repainted panels look different in bright light.

INTERIOR

6 checks

- ☐ Dashboard condition — cracks or missing trim
- ☐ Seat upholstery — tears, burns, or water stains
- ☐ Roof lining — sagging means water-leak history
- ☐ Floor mats — lift them, check for rust or damp underneath
- ☐ All interior switches and controls working
- ☐ AC cooling performance on full blast

PRO TIP A musty smell means water has entered — check the boot and window seals carefully.

TEST DRIVE

6 checks

- ☐ Cold start — starts immediately, no hesitation
- ☐ Gear shifting — smooth through all gears, no auto slipping
- ☐ Pickup and acceleration — sluggishness = engine/transmission issue
- ☐ Driveshaft or CV joint noise — clicking on turns
- ☐ Braking response — straight, no pull, no grinding
- ☐ Steering — feels centred and responsive

PRO TIP Test drive for at least 15 minutes. Short drives hide transmission and overheating issues.

Rather have an expert tick every box?

CarOK sends a trained inspector to your doorstep in Lahore or Islamabad — 70+ checkpoints, paint-meter readings, a full structural check, photos, an AI risk score and estimated repair costs in one digital report. From PKR 2,500.

carok.pk/services

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