



10 Essential Checks Before Buying a Used Car in India

Meta Description: Learn the 10 critical checks before buying a used car in India. From RC verification to test drive tips, ensure a safe and smart purchase.

Planning to buy a used car in India? This comprehensive guide covers **10 essential checks** to ensure a safe, smart, and cost-effective purchase. From verifying registration documents to conducting a thorough test drive, follow these steps to avoid costly mistakes.

1. Registration & Legal Documents

- Verify original RC or DigiLocker copy.
- Match chassis (VIN) and engine numbers.
- Ensure ownership transfer forms (**Form 29/30**), **NOC (Form 28)**, and loan closure documents (**Form 32/35**) are complete.
- Check insurance and PUC validity.

2. Vehicle History

- Check prior ownership and accident records.
- Use **VAHAN** or insurer databases for theft status and pending challans.
- Avoid cars with flood damage or title discrepancies.

3. Service Records & Odometer

- Review service history and mileage consistency.
- Typical usage: **30,000–40,000 km** for a 5-year-old car.



- Beware of odometer tampering or missing records.

4. Engine & Mechanical

- Inspect for leaks, corrosion, and fluid quality.
- Start engine: smooth ignition, no smoke, stable idle.
- Avoid cars with abnormal noises or coolant oil mixing.

5. Exterior Condition

- Check for rust, dents, uneven panel gaps, and repaint signs.
- Use a magnet to detect the filler.
- Avoid cars with structural damage or poor repairs.

6. Tyres & Wheels

- Ensure tread depth above 1.6 mm and even wear.
- Check tyre age (replace if older than 6 years).
- Inspect rims for damage.

7. Suspension & Steering

- Test suspension rebound and steering smoothness.
- Listen for knocks or vibrations.
- Check brakes for firmness and straight-line stopping.



8. Interiors

- Inspect upholstery, seatbelts, and AC/heater performance.
- Look for water damage signs.
- Verify manual, tool kit, and battery health.

9. Electronics

- Test all lights, wipers, infotainment, and dashboard indicators.
- Persistent warning lights or multiple electrical faults are costly red flags.

10. Test Drive

- Drive 5–10 km on mixed roads.
- Check acceleration, gear shifts, steering stability, and braking.
- Inspect for leaks after the drive.

Summary Checklist

Check	Key Points
1. Registration & Legal Documents	Verify original RC or DigiLocker copy, Match chassis (VIN) and engine numbers, ensure ownership transfer forms (Form 29/30), NOC (Form 28), and loan closure documents (Form 32/35) are complete. Check insurance and PUC validity.
2. Vehicle History	Check prior ownership and accident records, Use VAHAN or insurer databases for theft status and pending challans, Avoid



	cars with flood damage or title discrepancies.
3. Service Records & Odometer	Review service history and mileage consistency. Typical usage: 30,000–40,000 km for a 5-year-old car, beware of odometer tampering or missing records.
4. Engine & Mechanical	Inspect for leaks, corrosion, and fluid quality. Start engine: smooth ignition, no smoke, stable idle. Avoid cars with abnormal noises or coolant oil mixing.
5. Exterior Condition	Check for rust, dents, uneven panel gaps, and repaint signs. Use a magnet to detect filler, Avoid cars with structural damage or poor repairs.
6. Tyres & Wheels	Ensure tread depth above 1.6 mm and even wear. Check tyre age (replace if older than 6 years), Inspect rims for damage.
7. Suspension & Steering	Test suspension rebound and steering smoothness., Listen for knocks or vibrations., Check brakes for firmness and straight-line stopping.
8. Interiors	Inspect upholstery, seatbelts, and AC/heater performance. Look for water damage signs, Verify manual, tool kit, and battery health.
9. Electronics	Test all lights, wipers, infotainment, and dashboard indicators. Persistent warning



	lights or multiple electrical faults are costly red flags.
10. Test Drive	Drive 5–10 km on mixed roads. Check acceleration, gear shifts, steering stability, and braking. Inspect for leaks after the drive.