

KwikCars Vehicle Inspection Checklist

At KwikCars, we aim to make your car buying experience transparent and reliable. This checklist will guide you through the essential steps when evaluating second hand cars for sale in South Africa. Use it to avoid risks and purchase with confidence.

1. Vehicle History

- Request the full service history book and confirm regular maintenance.
- Check if the vehicle has been involved in any accidents.
- Verify if there is outstanding finance on the vehicle.
- Obtain a vehicle history report (e.g., TransUnion Auto, NaTIS).

2. Exterior & Interior

- Inspect for rust, dents, scratches, and mismatched paintwork.
- Check tyre tread depth and ensure tyres wear evenly.
- Test all lights, windows, mirrors, and electronic controls.
- Examine seats, dashboard, and upholstery for excessive wear.

3. Engine & Mechanical Components

- Look under the bonnet for oil leaks, corrosion, or unusual smells.
- Check the condition of belts, hoses, and the battery.
- Listen for unusual engine noises (knocking, rattling).
- Confirm there are no leaks beneath the car after parking.

4. Test Drive

- Test braking responsiveness on different surfaces.
- Ensure smooth gear shifting (manual or automatic).
- Check for vibrations in steering at various speeds.
- Drive on different terrains to evaluate suspension performance.

5. Legal Documentation

- Confirm the NaTIS registration certificate (RC1) is available.
- Verify that the license disk is valid and matches the vehicle details.
- Check that there are no outstanding traffic fines.
- Ensure the seller provides a valid roadworthy certificate.

Tip: Bring along a trusted mechanic or knowledgeable friend when inspecting a vehicle. Their experience can help you spot issues you might miss.