

How Not To Buy A **Lemon**

The Complete Used Car Buying Kit

Know what to check. What to ask. What to verify. And when to walk away.



VERIFY

story + paperwork

INSPECT

condition + safety

DRIVE

behavior + warnings

DECIDE

buy + negotiate + walk

Inside the full guide

This preview includes three complete sample pages from the 23-page guide.

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YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE REAL GUIDE PAGES

Identity + seller verification, tyres + visible brakes, and the test-drive baseline.

VERIFY + SELLER

TYRES + BRAKES

TEST DRIVE



Make sure the car and the seller are who they say they are.

SELLER



Identity problems are not little paperwork issues. They are purchase-stopping problems until the vehicle and the seller's authority can be independently resolved.

USE WITH: Quick Inspection Checklist

MATCH THE VEHICLE

- Compare the VIN/chassis on the vehicle with the registration, title, logbook or equivalent document used in your country.
- Check make, model, registration and other identifying details that the local documents provide.
- Look for altered, damaged or inconsistent identity markings. Do not accept a verbal explanation as proof.
- For imports, identify the original market where practical; specifications and service requirements can differ.

MATCH THE SELLER

- Verify that the person or business selling the car can provide credible evidence of ownership or lawful authority to sell it. Registration/logbook/keeper documents may identify a keeper rather than prove ownership in some markets.
- Names, addresses, identification and vehicle documents should make sense together.
- A third-party sale is not automatically wrong; an unexplained third-party sale is a reason to stop.
- Do not send money first and investigate authority later.

WALK AWAY

Unresolved identity

Different VIN/chassis, apparently altered identity marking, paperwork for another vehicle, or no credible explanation.

RED

Unresolved authority

The seller cannot show a clear right to sell the vehicle or the documents and identity do not reconcile.

Tyres tell you about safety and how the car has been treated.

TYRES



You do not need perfect measurements to notice damage, severe wear or a car that is not sitting on a healthy set of tyres.

USE WITH: Quick Inspection Checklist

CHECK EVERY TYRE - INCLUDING THE SPARE IF FITTED

- Cuts, bulges, cracking, exposed cords, severe wear or obvious impact damage.
- Uneven wear across the tread or from side to side. Treat it as a clue, not a diagnosis.
- Visible brake-disc/rotor condition where safely observable.
- Verify tyre size/load rating. Ask why if tyres differ across an axle or look unsuitable.
- Wheel cracks, bends or serious curb/impact damage.

UNEVEN WEAR CAN POINT TO

- Alignment or tyre-pressure issues.
- Suspension wear or damage.

- Prior impact/body geometry concerns.
- Different tyre ages or maintenance patterns.

DURING THE DRIVE

- Braking should feel controlled and predictable.
- Severe pulling, grinding, instability or a brake warning is

RED.

- A vibration or noise deserves repeatable observation and professional inspection - not a guessed part name.

WALK AWAY

Unsafe to test drive

Seriously damaged tyres, obvious brake danger or another condition that makes the drive unsafe. Do not test a car to prove the problem exists.

Drive the car the way you will actually use it.

DRIVE



A five-minute loop around the block is not much of a test. Use a safe, lawful route that lets the car warm fully and gives you repeatable observations.

USE WITH: Test Drive Checklist

- 01 SET UP**
Radio off, notes ready, warnings/temperature recorded.
- 02 LOW SPEED**
Parking, reverse, steering, clutch/gear engagement.
- 03 ACCELERATE**
Light/moderate throttle and normal shift behavior.
- 04 BRAKE**
Controlled stop on a suitable road.
- 05 CRUISE / BUMPS**
Steering, vibration, noises, ride response.
- 06 HOT CHECK**
Temperature, warnings, leaks, hot restart.

BUILD A BASELINE, NOT A DIAGNOSIS

- Does the car start, steer, brake and accelerate consistently?
- Does engine speed broadly match road-speed response for the transmission type?
- Do warnings, temperature or noises change as the car warms?
- Can you repeat a symptom? Note when it happens: cold/hot, braking/accelerating, turning/straight, low/high speed.
- If the car becomes unsafe, stop the test. You do not need more evidence from the driver's seat.

USEFUL NOTE FORMAT

"At 30-40 km/h / 20-25 mph under light acceleration, engine speed rises but road speed does not increase at the same rate; happened twice after warm-up." That is more useful to an inspector than "transmission bad."

Keep the whole buying system.

You have just seen three complete sample pages from the same 23-page guide included in the full kit.

THE COMPLETE KIT INCLUDES

- ✓ **23-page Complete Used Car Buying Kit**
- ✓ Quick Inspection Checklist
- ✓ Test Drive Checklist
- ✓ Seller Questions Sheet
- ✓ PPI Handoff Sheet
- ✓ Walk-Away Mini Checklist

THE FREE PREVIEW IS ONLY THE START

The complete guide adds history, mileage, body, cabin, petrol/gasoline, diesel, hybrid/PHEV, EV, driveline, service history, PPI, negotiation and handover guidance.

ONE PURCHASE. THE WHOLE FIELD KIT.

- Use the guide to understand the buying process.
- Use the printable tools beside the car.
- Use a qualified PPI when risk remains unresolved.

See the complete kit at
hownottobuyalemon.com