



ARAG

# Buying a used car: Checklist

## 1 Condition of vehicle

### 1.1 Outer chassis

#### 1.1.1 Paintwork

- Is the paintwork in a good general condition, is there paint damage (scratches or repairs)?
- Are there paint marks on the tires, on the underbody protection (e.g. wheel housings), or in the rubber door and window seals?

#### 1.1.2 Side panels

- Are the surfaces and edge lines wavy? Are color differences, paint changes, dull spots, or rust visible?

#### 1.1.3 Underbody

- Has the underbody of the vehicle been post-treated with preservatives on its underbody protection, its door sills or its fender edges?

#### 1.1.4 Gap dimensions

- Are the gap dimensions (distances and clearances) of the doors and hoods equal?

#### 1.1.5 Lighting

- Is the lighting working and are the lighting units undamaged?
- Are the headlights, direction indicators, taillights and the electronic system monitoring all functioning correctly?

#### 1.1.6 Glass

- Are the windows damage-free? Are stone chippings, scratches or cracks visible?

#### 1.1.7 Tires

- Are the tire treads still adequate (legal minimum 1.6mm / recommended above 3 mm)?
- Are the tires undamaged and not too old (porous rubber spots, bubbles on the sidewall)?
- Is the wear of the tires even (differences in condition, damage to the sidewalls, one-sided tread wear)?
- Are all the tires on the vehicle of the same brand, and do they match the vehicle in terms of its size and maximum permissible speed?

#### 1.1.8 Wheel rims and covers

- Are the wheel rims in good general condition (damage, rim edges, cracks)?
- Are all the wheel covers in good condition? Check that any special rims or post-mounted rims have been noted in the vehicle registration document as approved changes.

#### 1.1.9 Chrome, trim and rubber seals

- Are these undamaged?

#### 1.1.10 Brake disks

- Optical check of the brake discs. Is damage to the brake discs visible?
- Wear pattern in good condition (surface rust, grooves, etc.)?
- Are the brake discs visibly worn, possibly through to the brake lining?

## 1.2 Interior

### 1.2.1 Check operation of the electronic equipment

- Is the electronic equipment working properly, e.g. the windshield wipers, the heating, the ventilation and air conditioning system, the navigation system, the comfort electronics, and the on-board computer systems?
- Do the electric mirrors, the seat adjustment and the electric windows and sunroof work?

### 1.2.2 Interior fittings

- Seats: Are the seats worn or dirty? Can they be easily adjusted?
- Doors: Do the doors close precisely? Are rubber seals missing, are they cracked or porous?
- Are there burn holes, cracks or damage in the seat covers, door panels or roof linings?

### 1.2.3 Restraint systems

- Are the safety belts undamaged and do they slide properly?
- Has the useful life of the airbags expired?

### 1.2.4 Passenger area

- General appearance, cleanliness, are traces of excessive use recognizable?
- Odors, smoker vehicle, dog, etc?

### 1.2.5 Pedals

- Are the rubber pedal pads worn or brand new?

### 1.2.6 Floor carpets

- Are the floor carpets dry, clean and undamaged?

## 1.3 Engine

### 1.3.1 General

- Is external oil or coolant leakage noticeable from the engine and auxiliary components?
- Are there any paint resprays or rust spots?

### 1.3.2 Battery

- Is the battery fixed? Are the battery terminals oxidized?
- Are the fluid levels of the units in the engine correct, e.g. the cooling system, oil system, etc?
- Are the visible rubber sleeves for the drive shafts and the steering undamaged, e.g. marten damage?

### 1.3.3 Operating performance of the engine

- Is the running of the engine correct?
- Can you hear excessive or abnormal engine noise?

### 1.3.4 Timing belts

- Was the last change of the timing belt carried out according to the specifications or is a change due?

## 1.4 Interior of the trunk

- Are traces of repair visible? Are there any paint resprays or rust spots?
- Are covers and floor mats dry and undamaged? Is there dampness under the floor mats, etc.?
- Are the spare wheel and vehicle tool kit (car jack, etc) present?

## 1.5 Undercarriage (if possible in a raised position)

### 1.5.1 Underside

- Is there remedied repair damage?
- Are rust spots visible on the floor assembly, the undersides of the doors and hoods?
- Is damage to the underbody protection visible?

### 1.5.2 Tightness of the units

- Is a loss of oil from the engine, gearbox, differential or steering recognizable?

### 1.5.3 Exhaust system

- Is significant rust or damage to the exhaust pipes and muffler recognizable?
- Is the catalytic converter in good condition (rigid inner parts, external deformities, etc)?

- 1.5.4 Chassis
  - Is there recognizable damage to the wheel suspensions or the chassis?
  - Has a modified chassis been entered correctly in the vehicle registration document?
- 1.5.5 Shock absorber / spring elements
  - Is the tightness correct or is oil loss visible?
- 1.5.6 Braking system and fuel system
  - Are leaky spots (traces of dampness) visible?

## 2 Inspection of documents

### 2.1 Vehicle registration

- Date of first registration
- Compare the engine and chassis numbers
- Motor vehicle control: When was the vehicle last officially tested? Place importance on the fact that the vehicle has been officially tested in at least the last 6 months.
- Has all maintenance work has been carried out in accordance with the specifications of the vehicle manufacturer?  
(Also see "Service booklet"!)

### 2.2 Service booklet

- Signed and stamped?
- Date and mileage noted?
- Have all services been carried out in accordance with the factory specifications?

### 2.3 Exhaust maintenance document

- When was the last exhaust emission test carried out?

## 3 Purchase contract

### 3.1 General

- For contract negotiations on site, it is advisable to take a neutral person with you so that you have a witness in case of any subsequent disputes with the seller.
- Ask to see the sales authorization or canceled vehicle registration if the seller is not the owner of the vehicle.
- If the seller fails to provide sufficient vehicle information, request an excerpt of the vehicle's history from the Federal Roads Office (ASTRA, 3003 Bern).
- Before concluding the contract, check that the information contained therein matches that in the vehicle's papers or the vehicle itself.

### 3.2 Contract form

- Although verbal purchase contracts are valid, completion of contracts in writing is nonetheless recommended for evidentiary purposes. You must be in possession of a duplicate of the contract signed by both parties.

### 3.3 The contract contents

- The parties and their addresses, purchase price
- Vehicle (brand, model, model year, age, chassis number, date of 1st registration, mileage, accessories)
- Additional elements (warranty, guarantee, accident freedom, from first owner, from motor vehicle control, risk only upon delivery of the vehicle, etc).